

Highlands Newspaper

FREE every Thursday

Volume 10, Number 40

Internet PDF Version at www.HighlandsNewspaperPDF.com

Thursday, Oct. 4, 2012

Thurs., Fri., Sat.

• Live music at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge. Call 526-2121 for details.

Friday, Oct. 5

• At Dr. Buchanan's Center for Plastic Surgery in the Jane Woodruff Building, OB-GYN DAY 2012. Drop in from 10a-4p. Refreshments. Door Prizes. 20% Off Obagi and Jane Iredale and more.

Saturday, Oct. 6

• Pour Le Pink 5-K Walk/Run on the hospital campus. 9am. Open to male/female runners and walkers, all ages. Registration is \$30. Call (828) 526-1313.

• At Chivaree Gallery in the Shops of Cashiers Commons on Hwy 107 N., Opening Reception from 4-6 p.m. with artist Lucy Mitchell, paintings and pastels.

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

• Benefit for the family of Jason Aaron Mathes, 4-9 p.m. at the Cashiers Community Center. Live music, cake walk, raffle, silent auction, kids games. BBQ & hotdog dinner. \$8 adults, \$5 children's plates.

• John Michael Montgomery at Carpe Diem Farm: 2-4p Concert on the Lawn. Tickets are \$50 per person. Children under 12 are \$10. Also at 6:30 the Tux, Tails and Blue Jeans Ball. Tickets are \$200 per person.

• Highlands Nature Center program on fall colors 2-3:30p. \$2 per person; appropriate for all ages. To sign up, call 526-2623.

Sunday, Oct. 7

• The Annual Blessing of the Animals at 2PM at the Highlands Nature Center Amphitheater. All are welcome. Bring your critters!

• Curtis Blackwell and the Dixie Bluegrass Boys singing during the 11a worship service at First Presbyterian Church.

Tuesday, Oct. 9

• Story Swap at 7:30 pm, at the Ugly Dog Pub at 294 S. Fourth St. in Highlands.

• Alzheimers Affects on Baby Boomers, at 10 a.m., in the Jane Woodruff Building, lower level, at H-C Hospital. To register, call 526-1498.

• The Lady and the Old Timers Band will perform at the Hudson Library at 1:30 p.m.

H-C Hospital joining Mission Health

The dual commitment of moving health and wellness forward in Western North Carolina is the idea behind the recent affiliation of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Mission Health.

Last week, the H-C Hospital

Board gave the hospital permission to pursue a partnership with Mission. Though not all the terms are in stone, the relationship is expected to be solidified in the short term, said Rowena Buffett Timms, senior VP government

and community affairs for Mission Health.

"Having a regional network of care, allows us to continue and expand our commitment of health and wellness into Western North

• See HOSPITAL page 13



The Highlands brand and new logo will be everywhere -- on banners, on gateway signs into town on trailblazer signs denoting direction, on merchandise, town vehicles and letterhead.

Highlands to promote its unique traits through logo and signage

In two years, the Small Town Main Street (STMS) Project has netted Highlands a renovated Town Square with public restrooms and now a bon a fide brand which will be used to identify Highlands through signage, logos, banners and more -- an ef-

fort to consolidate the "look and feel" of the town.

At the September 20 Town Board meeting, Ran Shaffner, chairman of the STMS Design Committee presented the final word on the branding/wayfinding project, and he got an enthusias-

tic OK from commissioners.

"I think this is great," said Commissioner Brian Stiehler. "I love the gateway signs; how simple they are and I think this, in conjunction with our new post office and the Visitor Center mov-

• See HIGHLANDS page 3

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Meadows and Rogers face off at League Q&A

– Part 3 –

On Thursday, Sept. 13, the Macon County League of Women Voters held a Question and Answer Forum between Democrat Hayden Rogers and Republican Mark Meadows who are running for the 11th Congressional in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The candidates were given five questions on the following topics: the health of the economy and what you hope to do about it, Medicare and social security, Women's health and welfare issues, What differentiates you from your opponent, and finally discussion of any other issue you would like to cover including your general philosophy and closing remarks.

Since the candidates' answers were lengthy, answers to question three was reported in the Sept. 27 edition. This week we fea-

• See LEAGUE Q&A page 11

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

There is nothing sinister in the word 'Forward'

Dear Editor,
This should be short. Mr. Swanson's latest column entitled "Voila, the light bulb shines" in the Sept. 27th edition goes on about the word "Forward!" Don thinks he is cute or creative or perhaps bringing something to mind only the most knowledgeable could discover. Well, Mr. Swanson is only showing his ignorance.

I would venture to state anyone who has worked in any form of organization in the last 20 years or so would recognize this immediately. Anyone who was responsible for a group of employees in a department of some size, let us say from 20-40 people, and having to attend for lack of a better word, a company staff meeting each week or even several times a week, would know words like: Forward, Advancing, Pro-Active, Writing in the Active Voice, Planning Ahead, Setting Goals for production or enhancement of processes already in use.

These meetings chaired by some form of top executive insist on this type of verbiage. Any manager or leader not speaking in this attainment attitude would soon fine himself or herself in need of a new job. Because if we are not moving forward, than we are status quo, and if we are stagnant then why should the organization need you?

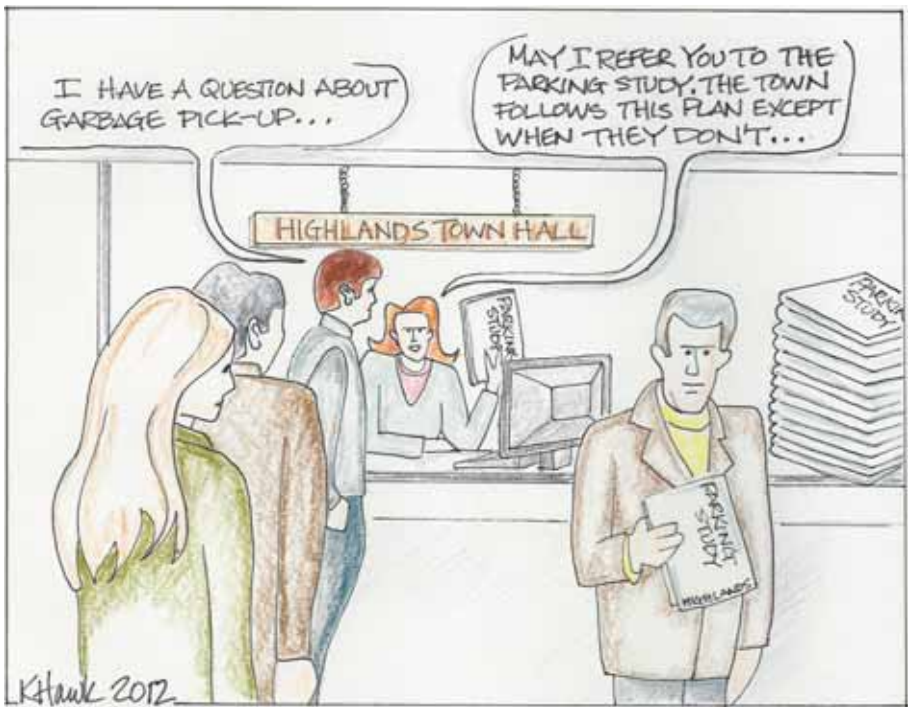
This just shows the narrowness, lack of real thought, and a gross lack of any meaningful conscious awareness of how organizations or government really works. And both do work.

As stated before, anyone seriously looking into Marxist or communist theory will be astounded by all the implications of these concepts. Neither Russia, China, nor Italy really were successful in implementing any of the concepts they say that they adhered too.

Swanson affectively left the Republican Party in 2005? Sure that is why he can only attribute hate to Anyone Else but Republicans, and that is why he is/was working for some NC GOP official!

Allen Johnson
Franklin

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



Back to you, Fred

Dear editor,
This is in response to Fred Wooldridge's bulletin at the end of his Sept. 27th column.

Correct, a policeman wearing a ski mask is not unconstitutional. A policeman wearing a ski mask forcing his way into a home without a warrant is against the Constitution. A policeman taking a person from their home and threatening kill that person, even a criminal, is a civil rights violation according to the 4th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Yes, Florida has statutes of limitations, as does the federal statutes on police misconduct. Therefore, Miranda and the 5th Amendment are not applicable in this situation. On the other hand, it may be prudent to remain silent.

Duh, back to you.
Patrick Taylor
Highlands

A note to our season subscribers

Dear Editor
It is with heavy hearts that the Highlands Community Players Board of Directors has to announce the cancellation of the October play, Jake.

It was decided that due to numerous production issues, HCP would delay the presentation of the premiere of the play written by Matt Eberz rather than mount a show that does not live up to the HCP standard of "Good Plays Well Done."

There has been a lot of interest in Jake since the playwright is a local person but circumstances prevent us from doing the play at this time.

Season subscribers will be able to use their ticket as a "flex" ticket by either using the ticket for an extra seat to either the Winter or Spring production or using the season ticket for the Small Stages Production of The Last Romance which will be performed June 6-9 and 13-16, 2013.

We regret the decision to cancel the Fall production for 2012 and look forward to seeing you in February for the Winter production.

HCP Board of Directors
Highlands

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... LETTERS continued
from page 2

Once again, thanks for doing your homework!

Dear Editor,

Those citizens who read the lengthy article in the September 27, 2012 paper may not have noticed the addition of "Story Behind Spring Street and the Parking Study"

If they did read it, they realized that the town has NEVER had the authority to reconstruct the Spring Street in the manner in which it has been allowed.

Now with two, adjacent, one-way streets going in the same direction no wonder people want to go in the opposite way on one of these streets. I have never visited a town with such an inconvenient travel pattern.

How can this town just decide to make two one-way streets in the same direction for no apparent reason? This causes a disadvantage for anyone wanting to shop on the hill if approaching from Fifth Street. I just do not understand this and apparently the only persons wanting to cause this to happen are the Town Board members and the recipient of the re-configuration.

I feel this entire thing has been railroaded through and is patently unfair to the hill merchants.

Please, Town Board, reconsider and convert either Church Street or Spring Street back to either two-way or one-way from Fifth to Fourth street.

That is the only fair way to do it. Surely you know this

Glenda Bell
Highlands

Craft shows vs. craft shows...what's the difference?

Dear Editor,

While reading about some events to be featured at the upcoming October 13th "Highlands Own Craft Show" at the town-owned Civic Center, I got to wondering; do the local merchants complain that this craft show takes business away from them as they claimed was the case with the popular biannual Pine Street park craft show which was recently outlawed by the Town Board? If not, why not? I was just wondering.

Alice Nelson
Highlands

... HIGHLANDS continued from page 1

ing down to that end of town, is an opportunity to tie everything together and benefit everybody."

With \$30,000 in funds secured – \$20,000 from the town and \$10,000 from the Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce – hopefully by spring, the new gateway, directional signs, as well as kiosks, will have sprouted throughout town.

The brand is simple enough, the words Highlands, elev. 4,118 Ft. superimposed on various shades of green, blue and a barn-red background.

A logo has also been designed using those colors, the verbiage and a watermark of the tree which appears on the Highlands flag. It will be used on signage, in advertising, direct mail pieces, merchandising, etc., but its usage in an individual business or in an application that directly profits an individual business must be reviewed by the Town on a case-by-case basis.

"A detailed discussion will need to be held soon – and decisions made – concerning ownership, copyrights, and authorized uses of the town's logo and graphic brand, as well as how to deal with violations and enforcement against unauthorized uses,"

said Town Manager Bob Frye.

The town is applying for the copyright for the town's logo and will have an application process in place so businesses can use it if their application is accepted.

"As I understand it, the logo and brand already has some copyright protection. Going through the process simply insures that if a problem arises, there is proof of town ownership," said Frye.

Shaffner stressed the need for the logo to be used in an attractive, consistent fashion. "There are limits on how it can be used. We don't want it to be distorted in any way."

Mayor David Wilkes, who owns Highland Hiker, said he definitely wants to use it on items for sale in his shop and he's sure other merchants will want to, as well.

Frye said the town is already using the logo on town letterhead and is getting quotes to see about using it on town vehicles. "We will probably phase the logo on vehicles as we get new ones. Plans right now are to use it on the new trash truck when it comes in a few weeks," he said.

Other uses could include license plates or windshield decals, on the town's Facebook page and website, on brochures, t-shirts, shopping bags, advertising pamphlets, etc.

Dear to Shaffner's heart is the way-finding signage, which will include directional signs, blade signs, state and federal route signs and kiosks. "Our purpose is to decrease the number of signs in town not to increase them and still help visitors find their way," he said. The STMS Design Committee, of which Shaffner is chairman, has primarily focused on cleaning

• See HIGHLANDS page 12



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• OBITUARY •

Colter Reece Owens

Colter Reece Owens, infant son of Amber "Nikki" Owens, died Monday, September 24, 2012.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by a sister, Delainey Nichole Owens, a brother, Daggar Vincent Owens; maternal grandparents, Yvette and Michael Tiger, paternal grandparents, Dennis and Sandra Owens, maternal great-grandmother, Yvonne Barron, a number of aunts, uncles and cousins also survive. He was preceded in death by his maternal great-grandfather, Bonnie Lee "BB" Barron.

Funeral services were held Saturday, September 29 at Blue Valley Baptist Church, with Rev. Oliver Rice officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Kids Place, PO Box 693, Franklin, NC 28744 or to the American Cancer Society, Macon County Unit, PO Box 1648, Franklin, NC 28744.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

How big is your "junk?"

When the guy at the airport demanded a TSA agent not "touch his junk" it made national news. I was moved and it caused a warm place in my....uh....heart. Hey, this is America and no one should be able to go through our junk, not even Special Agent Angelina Jolie aka Salt....well, maybe she could. Then, being the dinosaur I am, I learned they were not talking about the stuff in the guy's garage but the stuff in his pants. (Oy!)

Last week, while surfing through TV channels, I ran across a program about hoarders of stuff: folks who throw nothing away, giving a proper meaning to the term "junk." Armed with a search warrant, city health inspectors found dead and shriveled cats behind rows and rows of stuff stacked to the ceiling. I had to



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

change channels 'cause it was sooooo disgusting....not to mention not entertaining. The inspectors had to wear gas masks because of the smell. The owners of the house were outraged that authorities would invade their castle and remove dead cats and other disgusting filth. Hey, never throw away a perfectly good shriveled dead cat, I always say. What is it with people who watch this stuff on TV?

I'm proud to announce the li'l missus and I are the opposite of hoarders; we throw out or give away everything we haven't used in one year....except an oversized picture of my partner and I from way back when we were buying dope for the police department. By the way, my li'l missus does not allow that

•See WOOLDRIDGE page 27



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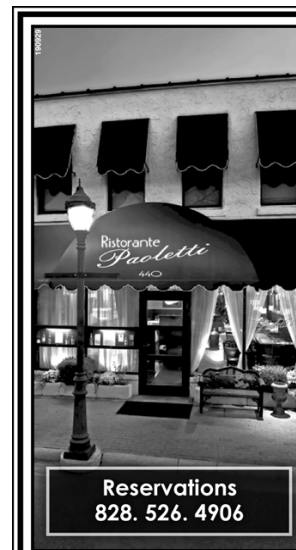


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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Will the 47% please identify yourselves?

Governor Romney's off the cuff remark about Americans who pay no federal income tax has evoked strong passions at both ends of the political spectrum.

Romney characterized them as having a victim mentality and believing the government should care for their every need. A roar of approval went up from the right. The left used the incident as further evidence that the Republican candidate is out of touch and out of step.

Who are these American who, according to Romney, are on a free ride. Four thousand of them reported annual income in excess of one million dollars who employ perfectly legal strategies to reduce or eliminate their tax bill! Four thousand is a tiny percentage of those who pay no federal income tax, but it is terribly relevant to the



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

discussion of fairness. An additional 14,000 earned between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000.

The total includes working poor, who have received a tax break since 1975. President Reagan expanded the program in 1986, and it was further expanded the first and second Bushes and under Clinton. It's called the earned income tax credit, and it worth noting almost a quarter of those paying no federal tax. These citizens are subject to payroll taxes, deductions for Social Security and Medicare. These Americans are paying for the benefits they hope to receive one day.

Add senior citizens who are scraping by on Social Security, benefits which are tax-free to many elderly. We have the disabled, including disabled veterans. Students are another wedge of the no

• See SALZARULO page 23



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• JUST HERS •

Elementary, My Dear, Part II

Like Julius Caesar's army crossing the Rubicon, the Mead family crossed the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad tracks in 1958, and never looked back. Many of the chemical engineers who came to work for DuPont, and the electrical engineers with General Electric preferred to put themselves into debt by purchasing homes as soon as they arrived in Waynesboro. My parents chose to rent a home for three years, saving up, first for our land, and then the building of our house. Transiting through the working class neighborhood of Wayne Hills, however, irrevocably tainted the family in some circles of society. A few snobby classmates still hadn't spoken to me by the time we graduated from high school.

Westwood Hills Elementary School was located on Rosser Avenue, about 1 ½ miles from our new home on Crofton Road. The school was across the street from Mount Vernon, one of the more upscale neighborhoods, and home to most of the town's doctors and lawyers. The principal was a rather stern looking man with a blond buzz cut, and while he had a reputation for fairness, no one wanted to be sent to his office. This was mainly because a story had circulated that the place contained a ping pong paddle studded with nails, which was used to



Michelle Mead-Armor
michiamead@aol.com

punish bad little boys. It was virtually unheard of for little girls to be sent there for misbehaving. I went once, and even before entering the chamber of horrors, was so weepy and distraught, the principal sent me on my way. Still, the principal had the soul of a poet. On St. Patrick's Day, he played traditional Irish tunes over to PA system during lunch. On Veteran's Day, he read us John McCrae's poem "In Flanders Fields" in a voice wracked with emotion. His smiles were rare, but genuine.

My parents made it very clear from the start that they were not running a taxi service, so except in rare cases of horrible weather, Eric and I rode our bicycles to school. We were joined on our ride by some

of the neighborhood boys. Meeting at the top of Brunswick Road, we crouched low over our handlebars, and sped down the hill, pausing only briefly to check the car traffic on Meadowbrook Road. We sailed past the Country Club, and entered the realm of secrets, that magical secret world where you keep things from your parents. Because, you see, the long way around meant going uphill around Greenway Circle. We only took that route when someone in authority was watching. No, most of the time, we'd look around furtively, then duck into Lovers Lane, racing the whole way until we emerged breathless on the other side. These days, that part of Lovers Lane is blocked at both ends, preventing disobedient children from the fun of taking the short cut. One day, my mother was stopped at the grocery store by a local physician. "Are you the mother who makes her kids ride their bicycles to school?" Instead of criticizing her, the doctor complimented my mother, declaring that the benefits of bike riding would carry on into adulthood.

Third grade brought enormous changes. No more dreaded naps, which I hated. As I knew no

•See JUST HERS page 27

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• COACH'S CORNER •

You're a good man, Charlie Brown

When I was a kid, I used to love to read Charlie Brown comics. My parents had bought me a set of Charlie Brown anthologies and I used to read them all the time (I would even hide them under my pillow so I could read them during "naptime.") When you are a kid, there is quite a bit of Charlie Brown that doesn't make sense. For example, why does Snoopy act like a human? Why do the adults not make any sense (or in the books, not talk at all?) Why doesn't Pigpen take a bath? While these are not quite existential questions, they are a form of symbolism that most children don't quite grasp until they get older. Naturally, the biggest question that I had when I was a kid was, "why doesn't Charlie Brown ever kick the football?"

Honestly, I used to lie in bed and wonder all the time about why Charlie Brown didn't just kick the football, or why he believed Lucy over and over again when she was obviously a liar, or why he didn't just get someone ELSE to hold the football so that he could kick it. These are the kinds of things that bother you when you are young, but I always believed, just like Charlie Brown, that the day would come when he finally did kick the football. Unfortunately, this belief never came to fruition, as Charlie Brown never did kick the football. The one time Lucy didn't pull it away, Charlie instead kicked Lucy's arm. However, now that I am older, I realized that the point of the football was not that Charlie Brown would kick it-it was that Charlie Brown always believed that he would kick it. One of the books I had was called the "Unsinkable Charlie Brown." Despite all of his failures, Charlie Brown's optimism was the mantra that kept him going each day.

I bring up Charlie Brown today because I have come to the realization that as a Pirates fan, I am Charlie Brown (I'm even going bald to complete the transformation). On August 8th, my beloved Bucs were 16 games over .500 and leading the Wild Card. I wasn't even concerned with the playoffs, I just wanted a winning season, and it looked to be a near lock that the Pirates historic losing streak would not



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

reach 20 seasons. Then, I watched in horror as the Bucs embarked on the most historic collapse in Major League Baseball history. Read those words again...the most historic collapse in history. The coup de grace came in loss 81, which would ensure that the Bucs would not have a winning season. Loss 81 came when the Bucs were no-hit by Homer Bailey, and then loss 82 came in glorious fashion as Pirate closer Joel Hanrahan blew a save (the Bucs were 69-0 when leading after 8 innings before loss 82) and the collapse was complete. Defeat was yet again snatched from the jaws of victory, and again the football was pulled away. It was like the cosmos came together to ensure that the streak continued in the most gutwrenching way possible.

And yet, next season, I will again get up off my back and prepare to attempt to kick again...hoping that next year is the year that I finally succeed. That's the great thing about sports-a new season always provides a new beginning.

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Characterizing today's buyer

As Buyer activity continues to gain steam and the seedlings of a broader-based recovery take root in the Highlands-Cashiers real estate market, I am often asked how to characterize today's Buyer. Who is buying now? What is the typical Buyer looking for? What changes or shifts are occurring? What does all of this tell us about the market overall?

I am completely fascinated by today's market, as well as today's Buyer. When I respond to inquiries on how I would characterize today's Buyer and/or market, I explain that today's market, to me, is every market I have ever experienced. That is, over the course of more than a decade in the Highlands real estate market, I have witnessed certain trends each year, highlighted with differing predominant Buyer interests and focus.

The post-9/11 market was one of very nervous Buyers (and panicking Sellers), with the bargain hunter Buyer leading the charge. Years later, the surging market (which peaked in 2005-06) had a jubilant tone of endless possibilities and saw the renovator/builder and investor profiles emerge in the lead Buyer positions. Today, we are seeing a true melting pot of Buyer profiles and market behavior, with Buyer confidence levels appearing all over the continuum from very nervous



Susie deVille

Owner/Broker-in-Charge
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on one end to supremely confident on the other.

Let's take a look at some of the profiles of today's Buyer.

The Investor. This Buyer has a very firm grasp of what it is he or she wants to have happen with his or her investing. He or she follows the market very carefully and possesses deep knowledge about area sales, price comparables, and time on market. This Buyer typically has a short-term and long-term plan for building a portfolio of properties that will provide passive income and a high

return over the years. Never dissuaded by nervous chatter in the market, he or she has a "no fuss, no muss" persona and zeros right in on buying opportunities.

The Renovator. This Buyer has the ability to see what is not there and loves the opportunity to transform an ugly duckling, fixer upper into a sparkling swan. He or she understands (and loves) the building process and has no fear of taking on the challenge of renovating a property from top to bottom. This Buyer scans the market for the "diamond in the rough" property located in the best areas. Seeing all upside potential, The Renovator chooses wisely and strategically and works quickly immediately after closing to complete the renovation process.

The Bargain Hunter. This Buyer is all about the deal at the best price. Many times, The Bargain Hunter is attracted to short sales and foreclosures first and foremost. He or she inhales data on distressed properties and has a general rule of thumb or formula for how to make offers on same (based upon listing price to sale price ratios data over the course of the last 12 months of market history). The Bargain Hunter's interest in a property is piqued more when he or she sees the potential for "a steal," rather than

• See INVESTING page 25

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES Saturday, Oct. 13



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A MUST SEE. Price now \$775,000. Reduced from \$959,000. Nearly two acres. Renovated home with Shortoff Mountain in the backyard. Great living space, chef's kitchen, garage, 3 bedrooms with room to grow. MLS 74674.

(Follow 64 from Highlands toward Cashiers. Left on Buck Creek, Right on Shortoff, to Eagle Ridge on the right. Look for signs.)



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Three bedroom renovated home on Little Bearpen, just a 3-minute drive to downtown. Two-car garage with some view of Satulah Mountain. Connects with the Highlands Greenway. \$575,000. MLS 69816. (Toward Cashiers, go past the ballfield and turn right up Little Bearpen. On the right on Center Drive. Look for signs.)



Featured Listings:

The Best of SkyValley. Six bedroom/7 bath home with fantastic long-range views. Large living room with open kitchen. Great game-room area with pool, ping-pong, and indoor shuffleboard. On the desirable Atlanta side of Highlands. Way below value at \$1,625,000. Perfect family home with good rental potential. MLS 76019

...

Gated Security in Horse Cove. Three bedroom/two baths with a ready-to-finish basement. Winter views of the rock faces. Reduced! Now \$269,900. MLS 73047

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Highlands Falls CC. 4/4 with mountain view, quality finishes, excellent condition. \$795,000. MLS #76109.



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Elegant mountain architecture minutes from Main Street on the Atlanta side. 3bed/4bath. Offered fully furnished MLS# 75149. \$795,000.



On 3.7 acres on Flat Mountain Road. 5bed/6.5 bath, mountain style home with 3 fireplaces and outdoor pavilion. MLS# 68745. \$1,150,000.



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Bank owned in the Turtle Pond area on .75 acre with creek frontage. Great deck, stacked stone fireplace. 3bed/2.5 baths. MLS #76105. Just \$199,900

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Ideal Harris Lake Cottage



Sweet 2 BR/1.5 BA cottage with Old Highlands charm. Stunning views of Harris Lake. Original granite fireplace (wood burning), pine walls, open floor plan, eat-in kitchen, tile counter tops, new appliances, metal roof, and outdoor living space. Short walk to Main Street. Great rental potential! MLS #75970, \$645,000.

Please contact Susie deVile at (828) 371-2079, Sheryl Wilson at (828) 337-0706 or Mal Phillips at (828) 200-2642.



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Commercial Cottage



Adorable 1940s cottage with commanding classic granite fireplace, original pine paneling and oak floors. Artificial slate roof. Best location in Cottage Row, fronting Hwy 64 East (Cashiers Rd). Great road visibility. Plans for possible expansion on file. Located less than 2 miles from Highlands' Main Street! MLS #75997, \$145,000.

Lake View, wooded 1 acre – Lake Catatoga S/D – Only \$144,900! –



Beautiful lot located across from community dock. 20 ac private lake (fish/canoe/kayak), tennis, pool, trout streams, waterfalls & fitness center. Call Tammy Mobley, CCIM/Broker at Highlands NC Realty. Cell: 770-337-1000



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• THE 'CONSERVATION' POV

Once upon a time...

From Wikipedia: "The 2009 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to U. S. President Obama 'for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples.' The Norwegian Nobel Committee announced the award on October 9, 2009, citing Obama's promotion of nuclear non-proliferation and a "new climate" in international relations fostered by Obama, especially in reaching out to the Muslim world.

Obama said he was "surprised" and "deeply humbled by the award. He stated that he does not feel he deserved the award, and that he did not feel worthy of the company the award would place him in." That "company" would include Mikhail Gorbachev, Yasser Arafat, Jimmy Carter, Jr and Mohamed ElBaradei. (ElBaradei was head of the UN International Atomic Energy Agency at the time.)

He was honored for his efforts to prevent nuclear energy from being used for military purposes and to insure that nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is used in the safest possible way. The period during which he served covered the period that Iran's nuclear development prospered. So much for The Nobel Peace Prize.

Fast forward to the state of the Middle East today. The "new climate" in international affairs fostered by Obama doesn't ap-



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

pear all that peaceful right now, does it? The AP reports: "Iran Vows Enemies Will Not Survive. An Iranian general has said that his country's enemies will not survive if they attack Iran's nuclear sites. Sounds pretty peaceful to me.

Again, from AP: "Fighting intensifies in Syria's Largest City. Fighting over Syria's largest city intensified, with the most widespread battles reported there in two months as rebel forces launched a new offensive to rout President Bashar Assad's forces from Aleppo, activists said. The city is witnessing one of the most violent days. All fronts are on fire, Aleppo-based activist Baraa al-Hababi said." This is not peaceful.

From the Afghanistan News Center: "Partnered operations between NATO and Afghan forces are continuing despite a decision by the U.S. commander to scale them back after a string of deadly insider attacks, Pentagon spokesman George Little said." Peace is to be desired, but difficult to achieve. We could go on and on about the world in chaos, peace-wise, but it would do little but depress us.

The latest in Obama's contribution to world peace involves Libya where recently, our ambassador was among four Americans killed in an attack on the US consulate in Benghazi. No, Obama didn't have anything to do with the attack directly (I hope) but what followed is indicative of the shallowness and deceit of his administration.

To back up just a minute, the Declaration of Independence maintains that the role of government is to secure the rights of its citizens to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. And the greatest of these is life. Now understand that U.S. embassies and consulates are property of the United States no matter where they are located, and it is the responsibility of the U.S. to protect its occupants.

Almost immediately after the attack, the word was issued that the fatal attack was a reaction to an obscure video that allegedly was anti-Muslim and had precipitated an uproar in Cairo earlier in the evening. Keep in mind that the violence started on September 11th ((9/11) and quickly spread throughout the Middle East.

Even though all the signs pointed to attacks that had been planned for months, our ambassador to the UN, Susan Rice (where do they find these people?) continued to insist that the innocuous video (has anybody ever seen this thing?) caused this obviously orchestrated assault on our diplomatic missions.

After the light of day made the administrations' position beyond questionable, they were forced to backtrack. From the Washington Post: "Panetta says an undetermined terrorist group carried out attack on U.S. Consulate in Libya. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said there can be no doubt that terrorists had planned and carried out the attack on the U.S. Consulate in eastern Libya that killed the US ambassador and three other Americans."

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton hinted that an al-Qaeda offshoot in North Africa may be tied to the Benghazi assault. Administration officials were careful to say afterwards that Clinton was not claiming firm evidence of a link. The BS goes on.

Per Breitbart: " 'Ambassador Chris Stevens did not have a Marine detail in Benghazi, Libya. But White House Senior Advisor and Obama confidante Valerie Jarrett has a full Secret Service detail on vacation in Martha's Vineyard,' according to Democratic pollster Pat Caddell. 'Jarrett seems to have a 24-hour, around the clock detail, with five or six agents full time.'"

Per FP (foreignpolicy.com): "The foreign-policy results of the new Bloomberg National Poll haven't gotten much attention yet, but the survey contains some bad news for the Obama campaign. According to the poll, Mitt Romney had a 48-42 advantage over Barack Obama on the question of which candidate would be tougher on terrorism. Romney, in other words, has encroached on one of Obama's signature strengths."

Thank God someone is paying attention.

... LEAGUE Q&A continued from page 1

ture answers to question 4.

• Voters are concerned about issues and policy changes impacting women's health and welfare. In an effort to shape social policy, legislators are challenging and implementing barriers to long standing legal services. Please explain your position on the government's role in reproductive rights in shaping social policy and please speak specifically to access to contraception.



Mark Meadows

We've been very vocal on this particular issue and regardless of who the audience is we've been vocal. I am unapologetically pro-life. I believe the government's role from a standpoint of truly managing that from a social standpoint is not a role for the government to take. It shouldn't be there. Part of what we see with the affordable care act right now is that in spite of the Hyde amendment which we have subverted, says is no federal spending will go toward abortions. And what we've done under the Affordable Care Act is we have bypassed that and what we've done is put money in there each one of us is having to subsidize as taxpayers and pay for something.

It's an attack on our religious liberties and we cannot stand for that. Because truly if we stand for that there will be an attack on other liberties and they are coming down the pike and we've got to stand up. So I am not for in favor of that.

When we look at contraception, most health care plans pay for that because it's cheaper for you not to have children than it is to have children and for them to pay for it. And so that's part of it. But should we be mandating that every insurance company have that as part of their clause and violate those religious freedoms that are guaranteed in our Constitution? I'm not for that and I think it's a dangerous road that we are going down when we do that and we need to stand up and say, enough is enough.

If the attack was on something else

we would be standing up. If they said we're going to take away your guns, we would be there at the courthouse protesting it. But I got a call from a Catholic friend who said you know what? They're coming after me now but they'll be coming after you next and so what we have to do is stand up for the liberties and freedoms that are guaranteed in our Constitution. I will not waver on that point and have not wavered on that point.



Hayden Rogers

I am pro-life. I have been pro-life. That's my belief and I also believe the best way to be pro-life and to eliminate unwanted pregnancies is to help have measures in place that prevent them. I believe in education, I believe in family planning. I believe these are things that help us prevent unwanted pregnancies. I think it's un-Christian not to help with that.

Now, as far as requiring a religious group or any organization that's affiliated with a religious group to require contraception or anything else that's in violation of those religious beliefs, I don't support that. But the good news is, when that came up with Georgetown University and the Family Research Council, when they joined in with an exemption that is typically in place for churches, a compromise was met and I think it was a good compromise because I think it protected the religious freedoms of those organizations and respected that right and it insured that women have access to birth control.

That compromise said you don't have to provide that but the insurance companies will offer that outside of those religious institutions having to pay for that. I think that works.

• Next week: Part 4 in the Meadows Rogers Q&A. The final question:

What are two or three additional issues that are most important to you to address in the upcoming term, such as health care, climate change, education, income disparity, international relations and what actions would you support and conclude with your closing remarks.

Curtis Blackwell/Dixie Bluegrass Boys here Sunday

On Sunday, Oct. 7, Curtis Blackwell and the Dixie Bluegrass Boys will be singing during the 11 a.m. worship service at First Presbyterian Church. The group is well known all over the southeast, and has just returned from a concert tour in Ireland. Everyone is invited to attend this service. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets.



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up the outdated, cluttered and often misleading signs throughout town.

Using the new sign designs, 12 signs will be erected throughout town but the job will also include combining, relocating, removing, adding, cleaning up and straightening existing signs.

Shaffner proposed a gateway sign and a large trailblazer sign – set some distance apart from the gateway sign – on the Franklin, Walhalla, Cashiers and Dillard roads.

“The trailblazer sign will let people know that they are a mile or a mile-and-a-half from town,” he said. “Once you enter the town limits, you drive through this beautiful forest and a lot of people wonder where the town is. So these will let people know how far it is and what will be there.”

Four kiosks are proposed: one a Wright Square, one on the stone planter at the old Galax theatre area, on at Main and 4th streets in front of Old Edwards Inn and one at Town Hall.

Shaffner said the plan is to have a map of the town on one side of the kiosk that pinpoints cultural and town sites and it will never change. There also room on the back of the kiosk to list Chamber of Commerce members.

Blade signs will also be used – attached to light posts or atop Stop signs or 911 road signs – which will help alleviate clutter by

consolidating signs on one post.

Those “blades” would direct people to parking, the Playhouse, the Rec Park, public restrooms, the Peggy Crosby Center, the Performing Arts Center, the Visitor Center, the Historical Society, the Community Building, the Hudson Library, the Highlands School, the Nature Center, even Sunset Rock.

The committee also suggested having the state and federal route signs remade with the “Highlands colors.”

– Kim Lewicki



Blade signs will be used to consolidate wayfinding.

Playhouse Rummage Sale set for Sat., Oct. 13

On Saturday, Oct. 13, The Highlands Playhouse is having a fundraising Rummage Sale.

It's going on the same day as the Highlands Own Arts & Crafts show and will be one more fun event to attend that day.

It takes place at 221 N. 4th Street, two doors down from CK Swan, across from Town Hall, from 10a-4p.

All proceeds benefit Highlands Playhouse.

Items are needed so drop off donations will be accepted Monday, Oct. 1 from 10a to noon, Wed., Oct. 3 from 10a to noon, and Mon. Oct. 8 from 10a to noon the event location – at 221 N. 4th Street next to CK Swan.

Donations can include, electronics, books, golf items, luggage, furniture, holiday items, baby items, furniture, clothing for ladies, men and children, linens etc. etc.

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... HOSPITAL continued from page 1

Carolina. Partnering with rural and regional facilities in our network enables us to deliver that care," she said.

Though H-C Hospital will pay Mission Health a management fee for access to its toolbox, money has very little to do with the partnership.

President and CEO of H-C Hospital Craig James said it's more about being able to "bring services closer to home" by drawing on physicians and services from within the Mission Health system.

He said H-C Hospital already has a very good relationship with Mission Health and patients are often referred there for services H-C Hospital can't provide. Citizens are also familiar with Mission's MAMA – Mountain Area Medical Airlift, and its state-of-the-art emergency protocols.

"This is really more about the services they are going to be providing to us here in Highlands. Most of our referrals have been going there and that is well established. What we are looking at is access to the services they can offer us because they sit collectively with six other hospitals in our region," he said. "What excites me is the quality of patient safety initiatives that will come from this, too. We do all kinds of quality reporting on patient outcomes, so now we can compare our results with other hospitals in the system and see what we are doing and what they are doing which might change the way we or they are doing things."

Mission Health is already affiliated with Angel Medical Center in Franklin, Blue Ridge Regional Hospital in Spruce Pine, McDowell Hospital in Marion, Transylvania Regional Hospital in Brevard, Rutherford Hospital and adding H-C Hospital to the mix expands its reach.

"These relationships are significant as we move forward and focus on healthcare in Western North Carolina," said Timms.

James said being a official cog in the Mission Health system means access to tools including group purchasing contracts – which is substantial and will likely affect H-C Hospital's bottom line in a positive way – and access to corporate services including legal and fiscal management, an in-house physician recruiter and market analysis.

"The affiliation with Mission Health will bring more opportunities and benefits for all individuals involved with the hospital because of the partnership Mission has with a number of hospitals an hour or less drive time away," said James. "So part of this is about developing clinical services, that aren't realistic for us due to our population and size." It's tradition-

ally been hard to entice doctors to come to Highlands because oftentimes the figures just don't add up.

But the affiliation changes all that.

"For instance, H-C Hospital currently offers limited cardiology services, but that could likely be expanded to more days a week. New services may include doctors in oncology, possibly even pediatricians and more, who will come to Highlands from within the system a few days a week which means citizens don't have to travel off the mountain for services," said James.

Telemedicine equipment will now be available, which will be a technological leap for H-C Hospital.

"Telemedicine is very exciting, said James. "Telemedicine units are set up in emergency rooms of community hospitals and just like students taking IT courses at the high school, doctors off-site can consult with patients and actually see symptoms. They will have a visual connection with the patient and the doctors on site – a long distance interaction – so if someone is having stroke-like symptoms, they can actually see what's happening," said James. "All this allows us to expand services which makes it more convenient in the mountains."

Timm said there are very specific needs in the mountains of Western North Carolina and that is the focus of Mission Health.

"For the most part, we are rural and being in this beautiful mountain area can make getting to healthcare physically difficult. In addition, we statistically are older and sicker than other parts of North Carolina, so we have a very unique set of characteristics – different than metropolitan areas – that we share together," she said.

Also partnering with Mission Health enables its affiliates to learn from each other, to collaborate on research, and to cross-train for best of practice procedures at every level of healthcare and caregiving.

"We expect this to come to fruition in the short term and are looking forward to a very positive outcome," she said.

James said H-C Hospital is simply solidifying a relationship it has had with Mission Health for a very long time.

"The goal of this collaboration is not to be absorbed by Mission Health but rather to become part of a larger healthcare network that will connect our patients with world-class care," he said.

Mission Health will not provide funding to the H-C Hospital, but rather will assist it in achieving its management and financial goals for operational performance. Furthermore, H-C Hospital will continue to be the sole recipient of any funds raised.

The affiliation will not result in a loss or replacement of jobs, but rather Mission Health will provide H-C Hospital with more resources.

• Mission Health is the state's sixth-largest health system and the region's only not-for-profit, independent community hospital system governed and managed exclusively in western North Carolina. In 2012 Mission Health was named one of the nation's Top 15 Health Systems by Thomson Reuters – the only health system in North Carolina to receive this recognition. It operates five hospitals, numerous outpatient and surgery centers, and the region's only dedicated Level II trauma center. Its 1,000 physicians are certified in over 50 medical specialties and sub-specialties.

– Kim Lewicki

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Creative ways to add storage to your home

(StatePoint) Between books, toys and years of accumulated "stuff," a home can feel cluttered. And most families quickly run out of available storage space.

However, with a few smart tweaks, you can create new storage solutions for much-needed space, and dramatically alter the feel, flow and look of your home.

"There are a number of simple, quick and low-cost solutions that can truly open up space in the home," says John J. Isch, principal at RWA Architects and co-chair of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Custom Residential Architects Network. Isch suggests the following:

Retool Furniture

Furniture can be used for dual purposes to create extra storage space. Beds, for example, can be built into walls to open up a room. Drawers and other types of storage units can be added into or placed underneath bed frames.

Instead of chairs, use benches with storage underneath or inside to save space and create an extra area for storage. Like beds, benches can also be built into walls.

Consider thickened walls or hidden spaces between rooms that can be opened up and carved out with shelving or closets. Just be sure your plans don't pose a conflict with your electrical wiring or plumbing.

Adding shelves to closets will give you more storage flexibility and make the most of your space. In some cases, you can even remove the doors to those closets for more reach. The added shelves will appear built-in and part of your room. If you have a basement, think about installing shelving units.

Rethinking Your Needs

Take a look at how you currently use your home and consider how rooms might be reworked to create spaces that meet your needs in smarter ways. For example, do you really need to use a spare room as an office? Does your dining room go unused because of seating in the kitchen? Take a look at your home more holistically and determine how each room should and could function.

Don't forget about spaces under stairs. Carve outs or shelving can be added to spots along the wall or staircase, or under the staircase.

If you have high ceilings, an architect can help you identify options for building in a completely new storage area.

Building Outdoors

Creating accessory outdoor storage can help you organize and bundle more cluttered items, such as tools and yard equipment. With these types of projects, one must consider zoning regulations and other elements, such as pest, rodent and environmental and temperature controls. Ensure that the storage area will serve its purpose and keep your items safe.

An architect can help visualize storage opportunities that people might not consider or think are feasible. He or she can help you apply many of these storage building solutions. To find one in your area, visit: <http://architectfinder.aia.org/>.

Most importantly, before you purge your precious belongings, take some time to create some space.



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Autumn Home Improvement

Modernize your home in a few simple steps

(StatePoint) Once-upon-a-time you loved the look of your living space, but now it feels so last-century. If this sounds like you, consider injecting new energy into your home by making a few high-impact changes without a high-roller budget.

Clever use of colors in combination with smart lighting can enliven rooms so they give off a more compelling, modern vibe without the need for costly remodeling projects or expensive furniture.

Color Transformations

Color both soothes and stirs the senses. Accent walls are a great way to introduce bold color and contrast, infusing a room with a sense of adventure, playfulness or drama. Bring vitality to any room by painting one wall a vivid shade to frame a focal point such as a dramatic piece of artwork.

Accent walls are usually solid with no doors or windows, unless there is something special about these features you want to highlight, such as a spectacular view or interesting architecture.

If you find yourself intimidated by vibrant colors, use neutral tones on your primary walls with a darker, more intense shade on your accent wall. Popular paint colors this year include fiery, orange-infused reds, watery blues, lush greens and earthy neutrals.

Lighting at its Best

Lighting is one of the most dramatic areas where things are changing in home décor. Not only are new bulbs such as CFLs and LEDs offering greater energy efficiency, light fixture styles and lamp styles are also changing.

Remember those recessed lights so popular years ago?

Depending on how they are used today, they may make a home look outdated. Kichler Lighting's Director of Trends and Training, Jeff Dross, suggests replacing this older style with contemporary semi-flush fixtures. He also recommends swapping outdated chandeliers, especially of the old brass variety, with a series of modern pendant lights.

"Nothing makes a tasteful statement of modern simplicity better than a row of pendant lights over a kitchen island or above a dining room table," Dross says.

For the bathroom, use wall sconces placed on each side of the mirror for evenly lighting the face.

"Wall sconces add visual interest to the bath and even make daily tasks like shaving and make-up application easier," Dross says.

For bedrooms, living rooms and family rooms choose strong bold shapes for your table and floor lamps.

Pillow Power

Match decorative accessories like pillows and lamps to your accent wall color, incorporating the color -- or shades of it -- into a variety of textures. Framed photos, an interesting vase or impressive plant will stand out well against an accent wall, making the perfect focal point. A buffet lamp (a smaller version of a table lamp) adds ambience and makes an ideal accent.

For more information on modern home design, visit www.kichler.com or join Kichler's experts in discussing the latest lighting products and trends on Twitter and Facebook.

Giving your home an up-to-date look doesn't need to break the bank or your back. Simple tweaks can give your interiors a much-needed face lift.



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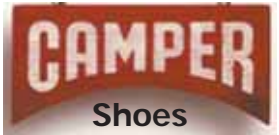


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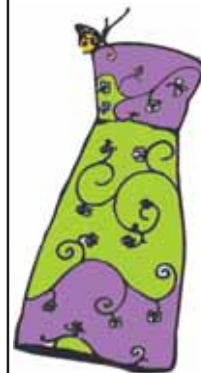
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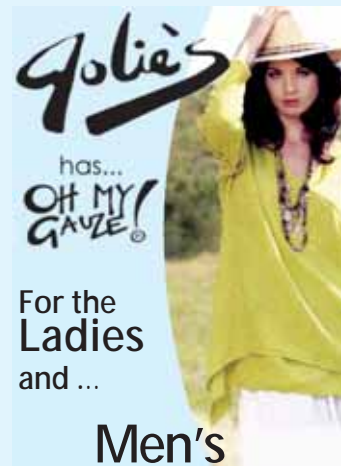
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Highlands Upcoming Events



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.

Mon, Wed, Thurs

YOGA ON MAIN – Mon & Thurs at 10:45a, Wed., at 7:45a. Call 828-482-2128. (9/27)

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 am.

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

• The Homegrown Buds, a home-school 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. Volun-

teers needed!

Second Thursdays

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

Saturdays

• Highlands Farmers Market at Highlands School from 9a to noon, through October.

• 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.

• 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

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.

Through October

• Pumpkins at Highlands United Methodist Church. Call Jennifer Forrester at 526-3376.

Thurs., Oct 4

• Flu shots at Sapphire Valley Resort Community Center in conjunction with Ingles Pharmacy in Cashiers 10 am and 12 noon at the Sapphire Valley Resort Community Center. The cost is a reduced fee of \$20 per person. Medicare owners must bring their red, white and blue Medicare Card with them and present it before receiving the flu shot. A Patient Consent Form will be distributed at the Community Center. In order to have the correct amount of vaccine available, please call the SPM Resorts office for a reservation at 828-743-7667.

Friday, Oct 5

• At Dr. Buchanan's Center for Plastic Surgery in the Jane Woodruff Building, OB-GYN DAY 2012. Drop in from 10a-4p. Refreshments. Door Prizes. 20% Off Obagi and Jane Iredale. Free Clarisonic Head with the pur-

chase of a Mia or Pro. Come and get color matched for your skin with Jane Iredale Mineral Makeup.

Saturday, Oct. 6

• Pour Le Pink 5-K Walk/Run for Breast Health and Women's Services - organized by the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation, a 5-K beginning and ending on the campus of the hospital. Funds raised will go toward maintaining HCH's state-of-the-art equipment as well as financial aid for HCH patients. The event begins at 9am and is open to male/female runners and walkers, all ages. Pre-registration is \$20, if received by Sept. 21st, and \$30 thereafter. To register, become a

sponsor, or for additional race details please visit www.highlandscashiershospital.org or call (828) 526-1313. The race is being organized with assistance by Highlands Roadrunners Club.

• At Chivaree Gallery in the Shops of Cashiers Commons on Hwy 107 N., Opening Reception from 4-6 p.m. with artist Lucy Mitchell, paintings and Pastels. Artist Talk, food and drink.

• Benefit for the family of Jason Aaron Mathes, 4-9 p.m. at the Cashiers Communi-

• See EVENTS page 20

Highlands Arts & Crafts Festival offers handmade, and unique delights Oct 13 at the Civic Center

The Highlands United Methodist Church is going to have a booth at this year's Highlands Arts & Crafts Festival Saturday, Oct. 13 from 9a to 5p at the Highlands Civic Center with proceeds from booth sales to go toward the church's capital fundraising efforts. This collector's numbered doll entitled "The Littlest Angel" from the Doll Maker, sculpted by Winnie C. Rolfe, which is valued at \$485 will be sold for only \$95. It is #291 out of a 1,000. There will also be handmade decorator pillows, table runners, place mats, napkins, knitted items like scarves, caps, beautiful handmade



quilts, afghans, throws, hand towels and more. Fressers Eatery will sell breakfast and lunch. Free admission and free parking.

Lady and the Old Timers at Hudson Library, Oct. 9



The Lady and the Old Timers Band will perform at the Hudson Library sharing their special blend of classic country music, golden oldies and gospel tunes on Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. "The Lady and the Old Timers" a band of nine old timers, five over 80 with the oldest being 87 years young, will provide vocals and music by stringed instruments and one harmonica. The public is invited to this FREE event.

Frank Sinatra Show at Playhouse weekends, Oct 5-14



Summerwind: An Intimate Evening with Frank Sinatra will be opening at the Highlands Playhouse this Friday, October 5th and will run through October 14th. Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 8p and Sundays at 2p. Performer Gabe Russo is one of the nation's premiere Sinatra entertainers and audiences will love his renditions of some of Sinatra's most memorable tunes. Tickets may be purchased by calling 828-526-2695.

PULL OUT

Highlands Area Upcoming Events

ty Center. Live Music, cake walk, raffle, silent auction, kids games. BBQ & hotdog dinner. \$8 adults, \$5 children's plates. For more info, call Ingra booker at 200-2057 or Suzanne Vanderpool at 724-986-2281.

• John Michael Montgomery will perform twice at Carpe Diem Farm: 2-4p Concert on the Lawn. Gates open at 1 p.m. Bring a chair or blanket. Family friendly and no alcohol. Tickets are \$50 per person. Children under 12 are \$10. Also at 6:30 during the Tux, Tails and Blue Jeans Ball in the indoor arena. Catered by Tim Lundy of Rosewood Market. Tickets are \$200 per person. All monies raised will go to provide for the equine staff. For tickets and more information got to www.carpediemfarms.org or call Peter Raoul at 526-5700.

• Highlands Nature Center program on fall colors scheduled from 2 - 3:30p on Participants should meet at the Nature Center by 2 pm. Cost for this event is \$2 per person, and the program is appropriate for all

ages. Advanced registration is requested due to limited space. To sign up, please call the Nature Center at 526-2623.

Sunday, Oct. 7

• The Annual Blessing of the Animals will be held on Sunday at 2PM at the Highlands Nature Center Amphitheater. All are welcome. Bring your critters! Donations for the Highlands-Cashiers Humane Society will be gratefully accepted.

• Curtis Blackwell and the Dixie Bluegrass Boys will be singing during the 11a worship service at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday. The group is well known all over the southeast, and has just returned from a concert tour in Ireland. Formed in 1960, they have won countless competitions through the years. Everyone is cordially invited to attend this service. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicap entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

Tuesday, Oct. 9

• Come and listen to stories at the Story

Swap on Tuesday at 7:30 pm, at the Ugly Dog Pub at 294 S. Fourth St. in Highlands. If you have a 3-7 minute story to tell or read, call 369-1927. Pre-registration is required.

• Alzheimers Affects on Baby Boomers, at 10 a.m., in the Jane Woodruff Building, lower level, at H-C Hospital. To register, call 526-1498.

• The Lady and the Old Timers Band will perform at the Hudson Library sharing their special blend of classic country music, golden oldies and gospel tunes at 1:30 p.m. "The Lady and the Old Timers" a band of nine old timers, five over 80 with the oldest being 87 years young, will provide vocals and music by stringed instruments and one harmonica. The public is enthusiastically invited to attend this special presentation which is free.

Thursday, Oct. 11

• The October meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will meet on Thursday at 6 PM 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 6 P.M., March through

November.

• Free movie at Cashiers Library The Village at 4p.

• The League of Women Voters will host a forum for Macon County Board of Commissioners candidates, Paul Higdon and Bobby Koppers at noon in Tartan Hall of the First Presbyterian Church in Franklin.

• The Macon County League of Women Voters will host a forum for county commission candidates at noon in Tartan Hall at First Presbyterian Church in Franklin. For the District 3 seat, incumbent Bobby Koppers (D) is facing Paul Higdon (R) in the November 6 election. District 1 candidate, incumbent Jim Tate (R), and District 2 candidate, incumbent Kevin Corbin (R), are unopposed.

• The October meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will meet on Thursday at 6 PM 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 6 P.M., March through November.

Sat., Oct. 13-Wed., Oct. 31

Youth Art is a back at The Bascom



Through The Bascom's outreach program, children create Under the Sea, a collaboration between The Bascom and the Literacy Council. For information, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.TheBascom.org.

In October and November, the public is invited to view Under the Sea, an elaborate installation of artworks made in Read, Write, Create!, an outreach partnership between The Bascom and the Literacy Council of Highlands. In the spring and fall of 2012, Read, Write, Create! students have read nine books and working at the Peggy Crosby Center and The Bascom, they have used visual art to interpret their readings and enhance their

learning experience.

The Ruth Eckerd Gallery, located downstairs in The Bascom, will be transformed into an undersea world, alive with beautiful expressions of the students of Read, Write, Create!

Under the Sea is a must see!

The Bascom is open year-round - Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday, 12 noon to 5 pm. To register for Bascom workshop offerings visit www.TheBascom.org.

Nashville Bluegrass Band coming to PAC Oct. 20



SAVE the DATE: Saturday, October 20, 8pm at the Highlands PAC. The Grammy Award winning Nashville Bluegrass Band will be in concert. NBB lead singer Pat Enright became one of the voices of the Soggy Bottom Boys, the fictional old-time trio led onscreen by George Clooney in the movie O Brother, Where Art Thou? Alan O'Bryant, Mike Compton and Stuart Duncan appeared on the film's Platinum soundtrack. Don't miss the final bluegrass concert of the year. Presented by Ray McPhail. Tickets are \$25 and are available online at www.highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047.

• Sons of American Revolution Assisting Homeless Veterans Members of the Sylvia McDowell Chapter, North Carolina Society of Sons of the American Revolution, are collecting items for homeless veterans in the region. The group is working with the Veterans Restoration Quarters (VRQ) in Asheville that serves over 250 veterans engaged in the Center's residential program that includes housing, education and training programs, career preparation and placement, community service, mentoring, and community reintegration. Items can be dropped in the box at the Sylvia Walmart or the Highlands Chamber of Commerce.

Saturday, Oct. 13

• 30th Annual Highlands Arts & Crafts Show. 9a to 5p at the Highlands Civic Center. Fressers Eatery will have breakfast and lunch available for purchase. Free admission and parking.

• Highlands Playhouse Rummage Sale at 221 N 4th Street two doors down from CK Swan from 10a-4p. All proceeds benefit Highlands Playhouse. Drop off donations Monday, Oct. 1 from 10a to noon, Wed., Oct. 3 from 10a to noon, Mon. Oct. 8 from 10a to noon at 221 N. 4th Street next to CK Swan. Donations can include, electronics, books, golf items, luggage, furniture, holiday items, baby items, furniture, clothing for ladies, men and children, linens etc. etc.

• Flu Clinic 10a-2p at the Autumn Leaf Craft Show at the Fair Grounds in Franklin. No appointment is necessary. Flu shots are available for adults and children age 6 months and older at a cost of \$25. High dose vaccine is available for individuals age 65 and older at a cost of \$50 while supplies last. Shots are also available during regular business hours at the Macon County Public Health Center on Lakeside Drive in Franklin. Appointments are needed for these shots and may be scheduled by calling 349-2081.

• Eco Tour to Rock Mountain Summit at 9 a.m., To register call 526-1111.

Monday, Oct. 15

• Candidate Issues Forum, 7:30-9:30 at the Jackson County Library in Sylva. US Congressional District 11 - Mark Meadows and Hayden Rogers; NC Senate District 50 - Jim Davis and John Snow; NC House District 119 - Mike Clappitt and Joe Sam Queen; Jackson County Commission District. 4 - Marty Jones and Mark Jones.

Tuesday, Oct. 16

• Alzheimers Affects on Baby Boomers, at 10 a.m., in the Jane Woodruff Building, lower level, at H-C Hospital. To register, call 526-1498.

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

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Lessons gleaned from 'Gilligan's Island'

**Rev. Lee Bowman
First Presbyterian
Church**



Do you remember the sit-com of a number of years back—Gilligan's Island? For those of you who don't remember it, it was about a group of people who were stranded on a deserted island—a blow-hard skipper, a brainy professor, a millionaire and his wife, a movie star, a plain Jane girl and a bumbling first mate.

No one could ever claim Gilligan's Island was either profound or intellectually stimulating. Often it was just plain silly. But as I thought back on it—and in particular as I remember it in relation to the world in which we live—I think it may have something to teach us.

For one thing those crazy characters aboard the S.S. Minnow sound a lot like society in general. They were shipwrecked on an island with little hope of being rescued. And even though they didn't particularly want to, they had to work together in order to survive so that they could make the best life possible where they were. Think it might be a prescription for the Executive and Legislative branches of government? Because even with all their differences, the folks on the S.S. Minnow were put to it to learn to get along because they needed each other.

The British writer G.K. Chesterton once said of humankind, we are all in a small boat on a stormy sea, and we owe each other a terrible loyalty. I'm guessing we all understand the small boat on a stormy sea part. Whether we perceive the storms to be natural disasters or disasters that emanate from human hands, whether we view those storms coming from the hands of government or the hands of those whom government serves, there's no question that most of us have felt them.

But what about the second part of Chesterton's statement—we owe each other a terrible loyalty. I'm not at all sure that we get that part—or even want to. Steeped as we are in the American ethos of rugged individualism—and its toxic spinoff the me first generation—we often don't like to think we owe much of anything to anyone, except perhaps members of our own family. Maybe that's why Paul's last chapter in his letter to the church at Philippi is so hard hitting. As followers of Christ, he says, we owe one another a lot. We owe one another respect and civility and most of all we owe one another agape love—not because we necessarily like one another or agree with

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 23

John 3:16

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

Proverbs 3:5

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

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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

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Wednesdays – 7 p.m.

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Senior Pastor Gary Hewins
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10:30 am: Middle School; 10:45 am: Children's Program., Worship
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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 Bowman, Pastor
Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 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

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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)

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Worship/Communion – 10:30

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

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Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.

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Highlands School Middle School Volley Ball Team: Coaches Debbie Moss and Leslie Wilson (not pictured), Kim Feria, Sandra Garcia, Katlin Moss, Tiffany Pedra, Madison Schandolph, Bethany Shuler, Megan Vinson, Taylor Welch, Stella Wilson.
Photo by Kim Lewicki



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• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL SPORTS •

Highlanders extend winning streak to 5

By Ryan Potts
The Highlands High School soccer team seems to have found their rhythm after a tough start to the season, and extended their winning streak to five games after victories over Andrews and Tallulah Falls.

Wednesday, the Highlanders hosted Andrews in a Smoky Mountain Conference matchup and quickly went on the offensive, getting two goals from Taylor Osteen, Davis Moore and Tyler Munger in a 6-0 victory. Goalkeeper Philip Murphy posted the shutout for the Highlanders.

Friday, the Highlanders kept the offense coming, getting goals from Moore, Colin Weller, Kenan Lewis and Roy Pioquinto against the Tallulah Falls Indians to grab a convincing 4-0 victory. The victory moved the Highlanders back to the .500 mark for the season at a record of 7-7.

The Highlanders will host Swain today in a SMC matchup before traveling to Rabun Gap on Friday. Next week marks a critical week for Highlands in the SMC race

as they will face both Blue Ridge and Murphy. Please come out and support your Highlanders on Monday as they host the Blue Ridge Bobcats at 6PM.



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... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 21

one another but because we are beloved children of the one God, members of the same spiritual family, with the same brother Christ calling us into his ministry.

First Church Philippi was obviously a place that Paul loved and cared deeply about. He loved their faith. He loved their good and generous hearts. He was at the same time aware that they could get snarled in trivialities and hurt one another with their incivilities.

When Paul addressed Euodia and Syntyche, he wasn't taking them to task so much as he

was reminding them of their relatedness in Christ. "You've got to learn how to get along with each other," Paul told them. No more sniping, no more backbiting, no more name calling. In other words, if you're going to be spending eternity with each other, you'd better start learning how to get along with each other in this life.

What Paul is talking about is one of the best examples of how we are called as Christians to live counter to the culture around us. Even though we are products of our culture and so 'in the world,' we are urged not to be 'of the world'—in other words, to be dis-

tinct from the culture around us even though we are in some sense products of it.

Distinguishing ourselves from a culture of 'me first' is no easy walk in our ultra competitive marketplace. Paul's exhortation to be at peace with one another comes to us—as God's grace always does—as an invitation. It's an invitation to live into the person God has created us to be. The trick is to discover that our response to God's invitation is not just about saying the right words. It's about living God's grace—and letting that grace live in us.

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... SALZARULO from page 5

tax pie. Americans who make less than \$20,000 don't pay. Do any of my readers want to trade places?

Persistently high unemployment in the Great Recession has swelled the number of families who don't pay. Sure there are plenty of people working the system,

rich as well as poor. Governor Romney served a giant platter of red meat to his supporters. Unfortunately, it was laced with sleeping pills, addresses our economic problems at the most superficial level, and insults many in the 53%

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• **POLICE DEPT. REPORTS** •

Highlands PD log entries from August 4. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Aug. 20

• At 10:45 a.m., a burglary with forcible entry was reported at Golden China in Highlands Plaza.

Aug. 24

• At 11 a.m., larceny by an employee who submitted a false credit card sale was reported at Madison's Restaurant.

Aug. 26

• At 10:09 p.m., officers investigated gunshots fired within the town limits in the Bowery Road area.

Aug. 30

• At 9:45 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Carolina Way and N. 4th Street.

Aug. 31

• At 2:50 p.m., officers responded to two-vehicle accident at S. Street and S. 4th Street.

• At 4:15 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Main and 5th streets.

Sept. 1

• At 2:28 p.m., Michael Roper Bickley, 20, of Highlands, was arrested for shoplifting in Mecklenburg County. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond.

Sept. 7

• At 6:15 a.m., Samantha Heller, 20, of Franklin, was arrested for embezzlement and fraud at a

automated teller machine. She was issued a \$15,000 secured bond.

Sept. 10

• At 12:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at US 64 east and Holt Knob Road.

Sept. 14

• At 12:20 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at NC 28 south and Spring Street.

• At 6:25 p.m., a burglary with forced entry was reported at a residence on Chowan Drive where \$1,225 in collectibles were taken.

Sept. 15

• At 2:49 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident at Raoul Road and Oak Hill Lane.

Sept. 18

• At 3:55 p.m., a simple assault was reported at a residence on Helens Barn Ave.

Sept. 19

• At 8:07 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Chowan and Wyanoak Road.

Sept. 20

• At 10 p.m., Michael Lyons Brissey, 56, of Highlands, was arrested for DWI when stopped at US 64 near the Farmers Market. He was issued a \$1,500 unsecured bond.

• At 3 p.m., officers received a call about missing computer/hardware/software valued at \$600.

• During this timeframe, officers issued 37 citations (warnings, ordinance violations, and citations)

Four arrested in rash of burglaries

Detectives with the Macon County Sheriff's Office Investigations Unit have charged four Macon County residents with numerous property crimes involving five residences in Macon County. All of the residences were unoccupied when the crimes were committed and one of the crimes involved a stolen tractor that was recovered in Georgia. With information from a previous investigation, Crime Stoppers tips and statements made by the defendants most of these crimes were charged prior to being reported by the victims. Macon County detectives also contacted the Haywood County Sheriff's Office and provided information regarding additional crimes that occurred in Haywood County.

The defendants and current charges are as follows:

• Joshua Cataldo Smith, age 19 of Franklin; charged with seven counts each of Felony Larceny and Possession of Stolen Goods, five counts of Injury to Real Property, and six counts of Second Degree Burglary. He is in custody with a \$31,000 bond.

• Sandra Elaine McCormick, age 18 of Franklin; charged with four counts each of Felony Larceny and Possession of Stolen Goods, and three counts of Second Degree

Burglary. She is in Custody with an \$18,000 bond.

• Nathan Shane Humphries, age 19 of Franklin; charged with seven counts each of Felony Larceny and Possession of Stolen Goods, one count of Possession of a Stolen Vehicle, and six counts of Second Degree Burglary. He is in custody under No Bond.

• Morgan Corissa Cowart, age 17 of Franklin; charged with five counts each of Felony Larceny and Possession of Stolen Goods, and four counts of Second Degree Burglary. She has been released on bond.

The investigation is ongoing and additional charges are possible. Anyone who has any information regarding these defendants and crimes, or other crimes, is requested to contact the Sheriff's Office or Crime Stoppers. Sheriff Holland states: "These suspects were going to homes that appeared to be owned by part-time residents of Macon County and making several visits to the homes before breaking in. We believe there are other homes broken into that have not yet been discovered and encourage residents to be good neighbors by checking on their neighbor's homes and reporting anything suspicious to law enforcement."

... INVESTING continued from page 8

something that appeals to him or her emotionally.

The Retiree. This Buyer has chosen the Highlands area as their desired location for spending their later years. He or she is passionate about the mountains and our warm and welcoming community. Often times, this Buyer already has ties here, through friends and or family, and is eager to spend more time enjoying life in our exquisite resort community. He or she eyes property that is easy to maintain, convenient to desired locations (shopping, church, golf, other friends/family), and has ample room for guests (especially grandchildren!).

The Builder. While this Buyer was very much a part of the surging market last decade, he or she has taken a step back to re-evaluate and wait and see how market conditions play out. This Buyer has reemerged, slowly, within the last year and is considering development buys, larger tracts, and choice building lots. As building becomes higher on the list of Buyer preferences, The Builder will similarly regain his or her once prominent footing.

The Quality of Life Seeker. This Buyer comes to me with a bit of a dimmed light in his or her eyes. He or she is weary of the pressures of life elsewhere (perhaps he or she is living in a large, metropolitan area or a location that experiences soaring heat in the summer, or both). Many times he or she has become disconnected from him or herself and/or his or her loved ones from too

much work and too little play. This Buyer wants a change and is no longer willing to put off living his or her best life. He or she enlists my help to paint out a dream/vision; we then work together to make that dream a reality. This Buyer visits me exceedingly often after closing. Renewed and reenergized, these Buyers stop in my office with wide grins and happy hearts, expressing deep gratitude for helping to change their lives.

Of course, there are mixtures of each of these Buyer profiles, with some characteristics blending into hybrid categories. Each Buyer, regardless of profile, shares the dream of finding and/or creating a "home" in the mountains, not just a house. In fact, my Buyers often remark that with their purchase in Highlands, they at last feel they have found "home." And it is this wide and pervasive appeal of life in our spectacular mountains that will forever drive the health of sales and full steam market recovery.

• Susie deVillie, 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.



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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

FELC resident Helen King turns 107 years old!



An 8-year resident at FELC, Helen celebrated her birthday with a party attended by long time friends and neighbors Page and Sally Bernstein, Richard Melvin, Azilea Fugate, Willeam and Jim Stiwinter, and staff. Pictured with 107 roses and 107 balloons, Helen enjoyed cake and good company at last week's gathering. "It's always exciting to celebrate the birthday of one of our residents," said Emily Porter, LPN, FELC Social Worker, "but more so when they achieve such a remarkable age and we, the staff at FELC, are privileged to be a part of that celebration."

Helen spent much of her life with her husband in the community of Norton. Before moving to FELC at the age of 99, she was active member and Sunday School teacher at the First Baptist Church in Highlands and a volunteer in FELC's Beauty Shop. Both Helen and her husband George were well traveled, living all over the world including Pakistan. She looks forward to the regular visits from her neighbors and spending time with her friends at FELC.

**Gala makes REACH
van a reality**



Random Women & Men/RW&M, an informal group of women and men who support REACH of Macon County, recently raised over \$20,000 at their 2nd Annual "gala." Their profit of \$20,000 enabled REACH to purchase a box truck with a lift for pick up and deliveries to their Bargain Store and the shelter they maintain for victims of domestic violence. Money was also put aside for the new 10-bedroom, 30-bed shelter campaign.

Virginia Parrott, founder of RW&M, is pictured here giving the keys to the truck to Ann Van Harlington, Executive Director of REACH.

**Mentor program
begins between WCU
and Cullasaja Club**



The Cullasaja Club of Highlands recently announced formation of the Cullasaja Mentor Organization for the purpose of mentoring Business School students of Western Carolina University located in Cullowhee, NC. An introductory dinner was held on September 10th at Cullasaja attended by 50 participants.

Pictured here from left are Founders Dan Lyles, Program Administrator Jennifer Williams of Western Carolina University, and Wayne Jones.



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... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

disgusting picture in the main portion of our home but it holds a position of great honor in the garage hanging between a rake and shovel. For her, the picture brings back memories of too many sleepless nights, especially when the phone rang at 3 a.m. Actually, I'm surprised she even allows it in

the garage.

Anyway, during our purgings, we hold up an item and say, "when was the last time we used this?" Then it heads to Mountain Findings or the trash, if not used in over a year. Special Note: We do hoard used Popsicle sticks....don't ask!

... JUST HERS continued from page 6

one, I had hesitated and gotten a seat toward the back of the classroom. Little did I know the problems this would cause! I could not see the blackboard from my seat. Since I couldn't follow what was going on at the front of the class, I often felt it was my duty to entertain the folks in the back. On one particular occasion, the teacher decided to teach me a lesson. She hauled me to the front of the class for talking, shoving the Third Grade Dick and Jane book in my hand. "Read!" she demanded. And so, I began to read. I sailed through the book, not quite the punishment she had hoped for. She grabbed the Fourth Grade book, and shoved it at me. I read that one, too. Finally, exasperated, she picked up the Fifth Grade book, and demanded I read it, as well. I read that one with no difficulty, either. Embarrassed, she made me sit down, but instead of feeling punished and humiliated, I was exhilarated. You see, I don't recall not being able to read. My memories of learning arithmetic are quite clear, but reading? I feel as if I was born reading.

There were difficult lessons to be learned in elementary school, and I learned them the hard way. Remember that the 1950's were not the age of political correctness. Favoritism was rife, as was bullying. I was one of those children who dreaded playtime. Red Rover, a playground favorite, consisted on the teacher choosing two of the more popular students, who in turn, picked all their friends to be on their team. I was always among the last to be picked, and as often as this happened, it never got easier. Dodge Ball was more torture. There was always some big boy whose goal in life was to throw the ball at me hard enough to make me cry. Teachers and the principal never, ever intervened. Their attitude was to "let the students sort things out themselves." Our parents felt the same way. We rarely reported abuse. Being a tattletale was worse than being bullied.

From this miserable time, a glimmer of hope began to shine, because I found I was not the only unpopular child in our class. Several other equally miserable kids endured what I did – and worse – and in the end, we banded together and became friends out of necessity. Georgia was brainy and small, with ugly glasses. Fred was painfully thin, with black rimmed glasses as thick as the bottom of Coke bottles. Ruth had bad skin, and

smelled suspiciously of onions. As we banded together, we found there was power in unity. An unspoken goal arose in each of us. Resigned to never being popular, we vowed to find something we really loved doing, and to get very good at doing it. I started to write.

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And since flat-screened computer monitors have become inexpensive I zipped over to WalMart and picked up a 19-incher to replace the old monitor that must have weighed 200 pounds and took up a third of my desk. The old monitor worked great but guess what? Not being a hoarder, I decided to get rid of it. But guess what again? No one, including Mountain Findings, wants a 200 pound 20-year-old computer monitor that works great. They also don't take cats....especially dead cats. I'm currently

looking for a hoarder and will ask them to take it.

Bulletin: Unbeknownst to the li'l missus, I have hoarded a poster-sized picture of Agent Salt, my favorite hot babe (Angelina Jolie) that I keep in a secret place in our garage next to my....junk. Please don't tell her.

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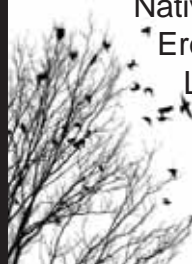


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