

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 11, Number 45

Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2013

Through Nov. 27

• Macon County Boys Basketball Registration Time (ages 6-14) Sign your son up for Macon County Community Basketball. Register online 24/7 by visiting www.MaconCountyBoysBasketBall.com or register in person at the Highlands Recreation Park. Deadline is November 27. For more information, call Michelle Munger at (828) 342-3551 or the Highlands Recreation Park at (828) 526-3556.

Fri.-Sun, Nov. 15-17

• At Highlands Playhouse: Last Vegas starring: Robert De Niro, Michael Douglas, Morgan Freeman & Kevin Kline. Showtimes are 4 & 7pm. To purchase tickets in advance call 828-526-2695.

Sat., Nov. 16

• At The Bascom, from 5-7p, Giving Trees Opening Reception and Nog Off. The Bascom's annual holiday event and a celebration of local artists, organizations and vendors. Sample homemade egg nog recipes and tour the combined opening receptions for "In these Mountains" and "Giving Trees." Call 526-4949.

• The Highlands Plateau Greenway monthly work trip is Saturday. Contact Ran Shaffner at highlandsgreenway@nctv.com or leaving a message at 828-526-5622.

Sunday, Nov. 17

• At the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, flutist Christina Smith and pianist Robert Henry will present a recital, at 2 p.m. Donations accepted at the door.

• Auditions for the HCP winter play, "Weekend Comedy" written by Jeanne and Sam Bobrick, will be held at the PAC at 3p. Looking for a couple who appear to be in their late 20s, early 30s, and an older couple of their 50s. Call backs, if necessary, will be on Mon., Nov. 18 at 6 pm

• First Presbyterian Church will host an old fashioned Hymn Sing at 4pm on Sunday. Song leader will be Stell Huie with Angie Jenkins at the piano.. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

Tues., Nov. 19

• The Highlands Dialogue discussion is "The Ethics of Resource Allocation in Healthcare," from 10-11:30a at the Hudson Library.

Town Board selects new Town Attorney

At a special called meeting Tuesday, Nov. 5, the Town Board voted unanimously to hire Attorney James Kent (J.K.) Coward, Jr. as Highlands Town Attorney.

Like his predecessor Attorney Bill Coward, who was Highlands Town Attorney for 15 years,

JK Coward hails from the Coward, Hicks & Siler firm which has offices in Franklin, Cashiers and Sylva.

Bill Coward was recently appointed Superior Court Judge for the 30th District.

J.K. Coward, 58, was born in

Chapel Hill, NC on October 19, 1955. He was admitted to the bar in 1984. He was admitted to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of North Carolina in 1986 and admitted to the bar by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1987.

•See ATTORNEY page 11

Highlands battles for 3rd State game



During the last game of what is being called their best year yet, Highlands Boys Soccer team played Elkin in the 3rd round of state games. They tied 2-2 at end of game, then played two sections of 10-min. overtimes, still with no score, then did one 5-min. sudden death (where the first score wins) and they scored about 4 minutes in with the final score 3-2; Highlands' loss. Pictured is Ryan Vinson protecting the ball. For more photos see page 4.

Photos by Lisa Osteen

Help with Affordable Care Act comes to MC

A grassroots effort to help uninsured and underinsured Macon County citizens sign up for insurance through the Affordable Care Act was announced at Tuesday night's Macon County Commission meeting.

Cynthia Solesbee, with Mountain Projects, is one of six

full-time aides covering the western counties of North Carolina – Jackson, Swain, Macon, Graham, Haywood, Cherokee and Clay – where there are 30,000 citizens without health insurance.

Solesbee got involved with the project when the cold facts of today's insurance market affected

her personally.

"I bought my own insurance. Recently, I was notified that my premium was going to be increased to \$500 per month beginning Jan. 1, 2014, with no explanation as to why," she said. "I went to the Healthcare.gov marketplace

•See AFFORDABLE page 10

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Student and school safety subject at BOE mtg.

At the October Macon County School Board meeting, the board was asked to consider two projects aimed at keeping schools and students safe.

The first project was presented by teacher intern Brooke Waldroop who is nearing completion of her education degree at Western Carolina University.

A Leadership Project is one component of her Electronic Evidence Licensure requirement and so the idea of Kindergarten ID bracelets was born.

With the support of her lead teacher at East Franklin Elementary Synethia Owens and Angel Medical Center, which has offered to partner in the program, Waldroop suggested ID bracelets to be worn by Kindergarten – and possibly older students.

Much like the bracelets pa-

•See SAFETY page 8

The

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

How mental health funding for NC affects Macon County

Dear Editors,

At a local meeting on Saturday, Major Andy Shields from Macon County Sheriff Department spoke regarding the man hours spent on people with severe mental health issues.

Since early 2000, funding in all states for mental health facilities has diminished, and there has been a focus to take some severe patients from secure facilities and integrate them into society.

Independence Training ensued of some higher functioning patients, with an end goal of rehabilitation and part-time work. It sadly succeeded for a very few, and for several others had tragic consequences.

I worked in a Day Treatment facility where 30 clients would come daily from assisted living to a group function where their medications were monitored by a visiting psychiatrist. During the day the patients participated in socialization programs. Then they would return home where medications were closely monitored. Most functioned fairly well with this structure and attention.

As training for the exit of our program progressed, the stress became apparent in all the patients. Several from our facility were to "graduate" to independent living and begin working at MacDonald's, thrift stores, and the like. Some of these unfortunate souls did not take the re-introduction into society pressure well and they over medicated themselves with fatal results.

To complicate matters, in very few months, the Day Treatment program was unfunded and closed due to government cutbacks in mental health.

According to Major Shields, funding in NC is currently much too low to deal with serious mental health issues including substance abuse. Substance abuse can lead directly to behavioral and mental health problems. Facilities in NC where mental health is treated have been forced to reduce the number of beds to seriously low levels.

This situation has resulted in a re-

volving door for our local Sheriff, these patients and their families. Because of funding cuts, when a citizen is deemed a threat to themselves or society, they are picked up and delivered to the emergency room with the Law Enforcement Officer spending long hours, otherwise unproductive, at the hospital, and sometimes a single officer contends with as many as seven waiting to be treated!

Once treated by the emergency services, the Sheriff Dept. is then responsible to transport these individuals to counties outside Macon County where mental health care is available.

With state facilities reducing bed accessibility year after year, patients are often released back to families and the cycle then repeats all over again.

The cost to taxpayers is great as many law enforcement hours are expended, usu-

ally without successful results for the patient. All the while, families struggle trying to deal with their loved one. With inadequate treatment and living arrangements, these individuals most often wind up on the street, possibly causing harm to themselves and hurting others. These are the forgotten people in our health system.

Our state must allow for more mental health treatment facilities and more funding. Call or write your legislators! As witnessed by the many tragedies this year where young men with psychiatric troubles have killed people indiscriminately, we must address this mental health issue now.

This problem will only become worse if we continue to turn a blind eye towards mental health issues and it's diminished funding while blaming irrelevant factors.

Sonja Thompson
Franklin, NC

Does Christianity discriminate against race or homosexuality?

Dear Editor,

It's been stated there's a double standard within Christian thinking, in that we talk against discrimination in racism, but yet discriminate against homosexuality, and this seems like a contradiction to many. This subject, which no matter how you identify it, will more than likely offend someone. I'll try to approach in a kindness toward all, because all of us are affected in some way.

Let me first state that the reason Christianity is opposed to racism is because the individual is sacred regardless of race. God places the ultimate value on human life and the soul of every individual. But also within Christianity, sexuality is also "sacred" and should not be violated, but considered a treasured gift from God. So if both are sacred, both are to be protected and held with respect and high regard.

Protecting the individual made in the image of God, as well as marriage, where God has made man and woman for each other is necessary due to the deterioration of what is sacred: trust, love, and commitment, which shows itself within all of us.

Today, there's no certainty in anything; it's forever fluxing with no guidance for life or its meaning.

Life comes with its challenges, but our goal should be to strive toward the betterment of life, marriage and family that has proven itself true. This takes working for all of us. Henri Nouwen, professor of theology at Yale Divinity School has written numerous books and had taught in many universities and he, like many has struggled with his sexuality. His homosexual inclinations were only known by those who were close to him, and he never published any of these struggles except in his most private journals. But he knew he had a greater commitment to God and was able to follow in this commitment in keeping his vow of celibacy. He wrestled with these two worlds within him for a long time.

He also came upon a life-changing experience after looking upon Rembrandt's

LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions.

NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.
Please EMAIL letters by Sunday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

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

Email: HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor – Kim Lewicki

Copy Editor – Glenda Bell; Digital Media - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated Kim & Jim Lewicki

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

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Highlands Biological Station launches campaign for its library furnishings

The heart and soul of any academic institution is its library. More than great repositories of knowledge, the library of any college or university is also a gathering place for study, engagement, and socializing. This is true of the E.E.Reinke Library at the Highlands Biological Station (HBS), which has now, thanks to our renovation of the Coker Laboratory in which the library resides, been expanded to serve the community even better.

Did you know?

- The Reinke Library is named in honor Dr. E. E. Reinke, noted zoologist from Vanderbilt University who served as the first HBS director from 1929 to 1936.

- The beautiful pine bookcases of the Reinke Library were made in-house, with wood milled from an extremely large white pine that came down on the HBS

campus in the late 1990s - the huge stump is located near the Moss Garden.

- The scientific journal collection of the Reinke Library is vast, covering virtually all professional journals relevant to regional organisms and ecological systems.

- HBS was a founding member/subscriber for most of these professional journals.

- HBS-based research is featured or credited in hundreds of scientific publications.

- The Reinke Library includes well over 100 Masters theses and Doctoral dissertations based on work conducted here at HBS.

- The Reinke Library is open to community members as well as HBS residents.

HBS has ample books, monographs, and journals, but lacks funding for the kind of high-quality, functional, and comfortable

furnishings needed for the students.

Help us create a welcoming gathering space in the Reinke Library and Seminar Room by contributing funds for furnishings!

We have met \$2,500 of our \$15,000 goal thanks to the Garden Club of America. To contribute, please visit www.highlandsbiological.org/rally-for-reinke or contact the staff at

[org/rally-for-reinke](http://www.highlandsbiological.org/rally-for-reinke) or contact the staff at (828) 526-2221 or the office at 265 North Sixth Street,

Highlands, NC 28741. The Highlands Biological Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to foster research and education focused on the rich natural heritage of the Highlands Plateau.

For advertising information, email highlandseditor@aol.com

• MILESTONE •

Pearl Lambert turns 94!



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Artist Talk: 5:30 pm

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Opening Reception: Nov. 16, 5 to 7 pm

The Bascom's annual holiday event is a celebration of the area's non-profit organizations. Sample homemade eggnog recipes while touring our latest exhibition, *In These Mountains*. FREE to the public

Shots of the final Highlands Boys Soccer game at Elkin Monday, Nov. 11



Kenan Lewis heading the ball



Philip Murphy catching ball



Davis Moore kicking



Tyler Munger kicking

Photos by Lisa Osteen



Ryan Vinson kicking

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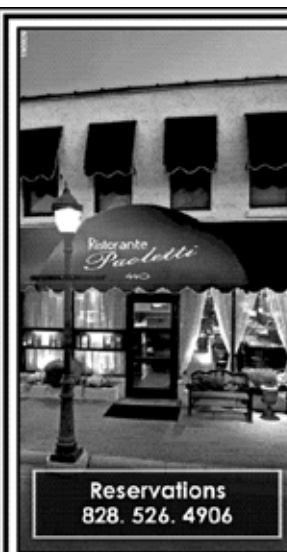


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Photo by Jim Lewicki

Event raises \$700 for scholarship fund

It was the brain-child of Town Clerk Rebecca Shuler and if attendance was any indication, Highlands first Home Town Day was a success.

With citizens yearning for more to do – particularly off season – as well asking for more activities situated in the park, the Home Town Day in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street fit the bill.

People of all ages turned out to listen to live music, be entertained by local cloggers, shop at the Farmers Market and craft vendors, take a tractor hay ride, play on two huge inflatables and feast on pinto beans and cornbread with all the fixings.

It lasted the better part of Saturday, Nov. 2 and everyone wants it to become a tradition on the backside of Highlands Halloween festivities which include a

spooky nature walk at the Nature Center the night before Halloween and Highlands downtown trick-or-treating event.

The donation-only event raised \$700 for Highlands Scholarship Fund which now sits at about \$800,000. Interest from the principal is used to award Highlands School graduates scholarships to institutions of higher learning.

The 20 vendors contributed \$200 and attendees donated \$500.

“We thought that was very good for the first year and were really just trying to get an event started not really make any proceeds,” said Shuler.

Other events used to grow the principal are an annual golf tournament and fly fishing contest.

– Kim Lewicki

Thank You Highlands

I am ready to work by
serving you and the
community.

My term begins at the
swearing in ceremony on
Thursday, December 12th
at the regular Town Board
Meeting at the Highlands
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...LETTERS continued from page 2

painting "The Return of the Prodigal Son" for over three hours, which displays an unconditional forgiveness of a father and son. If we place ourselves within this painting we understand "God's forgiveness toward us." (Luke 15:11-32)

This so profoundly impacted Nouwen that he came back and gave up his place at Yale, and dedicated the rest of his life to the L'Arche community in Canada to work with the mentally handicapped. Nouwen displayed his commitment and trust in the foundation of Christ that carried him through difficult times.

Words, time, sexuality, and life are all sacred – if not, life becomes a downward spiral. If these are truly sacred they must have a foundation embedded in a trust that can only be found outside of the human element. History shows we cannot do this on our own. If this is not true, where can we point or show to others anything which is otherwise? Keep Thinking

**Deni Shepard
Franklin, NC**

...SAFETY continued from page 1

tients are fitted with when they enter a hospital, the ID bracelets would include the child's first and last name, the name of the homeroom teacher, the student's ID number, bus route home and medical concerns, like allergies.

"The idea is to wear the bracelet for the first two weeks of school so teachers, cafeteria workers and bus drivers can quickly identify a student and address them by their first name," said Waldroop. "Many of these students have never been away from home and hearing their first name puts them at ease."

She said during the first few weeks of school when young students have to deal with buses, cafeteria lines, and PE there are lots of opportunities for confusion and mix ups. The bracelet would make day-to-day continuity easier.

The consensus was that the bracelet was better than a card on a string around the neck or a sticker, both of which could fall off or be removed easily.

Angel Medical Center has offered the bracelets to the school system for free and all information on the bracelet, as well as permission to participate, would come from parents.

There are some wrinkles to be ironed out; board members were wary of a bracelet being worn 24/7 for two weeks reasoning that the information on the bracelet would be accessible by people in stores and malls over the weekend.

So far only students in Owens' kindergarten class participated in the project where at least one girl considered the bracelet an accessory.

Waldroop asked for permission to continue working on the project; to hone it so that it could be available to all kindergarten students next year.

Attorney John Henning, Jr., stressed the need for parental participation and permission.

BOE member Gary Shields said it was a good idea at least for the first couple of weeks of school, particularly for getting on buses.

Chairman Jim Breedlove said it sounded like a good idea but was worried about the information on the bracelet being available for all to read when off campus.

"This has a lot of merit but there are concerns. We will have Mr. Henning look into it," he said.

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NCDOT crews prep for winter weather in the mountains

With cold fronts moving down from the north, N.C. Department of Transportation crews from Division 14 – comprised of Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Macon, Polk, Swain and Transylvania counties – are busy preparing equipment and crews to keep roads clear in advance of the forecasted winter weather.

Dry runs have been completed, equipment has been calibrated and crews are in the process of putting spreaders

and plows on trucks. Salt and sand supplies are stocked. Crews are on standby to work overnight to keep roads clear when inclement weather is predicted.

Even if a weather event doesn't produce a significant amount of precipitation, there is still the potential of icy spots forming on roads overnight, particularly on bridges and overpasses. Motorists are asked to slow down and drive carefully during the winter season which is predicted to be wet and cold.

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and used the Kaiser Family Fund calculator to get an idea of what I might pay through the Affordable Care Act. Estimates are based on income and family size, and what it came back with was \$200. I thought, "That was much better," but then realized it was \$200 a year not a month!"

Through a grant, Mountain Projects has hired six full-time and one half-time person to work the western counties to help people understand, navigate and sign up for insurance through the Affordable Care Act. Numerous volunteers are also being trained to help. Solesbee said the benefits of insurance through the Affordable Care Act are really great.

"There are no out-of-pocket expenses for preventive care visits, no penalty (money-wise) for pre-existing conditions, and there are premium tax credits which make the plans truly affordable," she said.

Premium tax credits, which come off the top when doing income taxes, can be applied to incomes beginning at \$11,500 for a single person.

"That's the minimum you have to make in North Carolina to take advantage of the premium tax credit. Below that there is no help because North Carolina opted out of Medicaid expansion which means there will be people who will not get the premium tax credit to help pay for their insurance premium."

The Medicaid expansion money goes to states to help people who make less than

required to take advantage of the premium tax credit to still get healthcare.

"Now their only option will be to go to free community care clinics," said Solesbee. "What North Carolina has done is hurt the working poor," she said.

In addition, through the Affordable Care Act, young people under 30, who don't typically go to the doctor unless there is a catastrophic event, can opt to just buy Catastrophic Coverage.

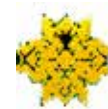
"This protects them from going bankrupt and ruining their credit ratings should something unexpected happen," she said.

Anyone interested in signing up can call Solesbee at 828-400-4177 to make an appointment. She is available anytime, including after work hours and on the weekends. Currently, she is working out of an office at Macon Program for Progress behind K-Mart in Franklin at 350 Orchard View Drive and at the Senior Services Center in Franklin at 108 Wayah Street.

Bring social security numbers and names of everyone living in your household, W2s, paystubs or last year's taxes. This information will be used to get a "good faith estimate" of 2014 income and help her determine what premiums would cost through the Affordable Care Act beginning Jan. 1, 2014.

Solesbee will be at the Hudson Library, Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. to explain the process.

— Kim Lewicki



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...SAFETY continued from page 8

Macon County Schools has formed a joint committee of school personnel, MC Commission members and law enforcement to come up with ways to ensure Macon County Schools are safe.

Instead of reworking the lobbies of the schools in the system, which would be costly and time-consuming, a way of controlling access to the buildings is being considered.

"If we can keep people who don't belong in the schools out, perhaps we can make our schools safer for our children," said David Curtis, program presenter.

Karl Gillespie with National Communications, Inc., presented an entry key pad which is being used at Asheville West school.

"With what's going on in our nation, there is a push to control access to our schools. Newer schools have one central point of ingress and egress, but older schools have numerous entry ways and exits," he said. "The apparatus we are suggesting is fastened to an entryway.

It has a camera, keypad, display and card reader and is weatherproof and abuse resistant."

The boxes are centrally managed from a desk inside the building from where the attendant can see and hear the person who wants entry. The field of vision sees a two-and-a-half-foot child and a six-foot adult.

People with access to a school are given a card with a number which they slip into the card reader. If they come up in the system the door opens. If a person is a visitor, he or she pushes the call button to communicate with the attendant who can see the person on the monitor.

Gillespie said training is quick and easy; there can be multiple boxes on multiple doors around a building – particularly in the older schools – all centrally monitored.

"It's the first step in making our campuses safe" said Curtis.

A proposal will be presented at the December BOE meeting but the cost is supposed to equal what it would cost to rework all the schools' lobbies and entryways.

– Kim Lewicki

...ATTORNEY continued from page 1

Coward attended the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England, received his B.A. with honors in English from Davidson College in 1977 and his law degree from Campbell University in 1984, where he was a member of the Campbell Law Observer.

He has been active in civic affairs his entire career having served on the boards of Southwestern Community College Foundation, Jackson County Arts Council, the Economic Development Commission, the Westcare Regional Hospital, the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Baptist Children's Home of North Carolina.

He has chaired the boards of Webster Enterprises, Jackson County Board of Elections, Jackson County Chamber of



Commerce, The Pinnacle Park Foundation and the Sylva First Baptist Church Board of Deacons.

In 1994, he was elected to the Jackson County Board of Commissioners and served until 1998.

He is currently a general practitioner with a focus on government, real property and eminent domain.

According to Town Manager Bob Frye, Coward has been offered the job and he has accepted, subject to the approval of his contract which will take place during the November 21 Town Board.

"I don't anticipate any difficulties with the approval of his contract," said Frye.

The meeting is in the Community Building at 7 p.m.

– Kim Lewicki

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Tree of Lights



This December At Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

Place an ornament on the Hospital Christmas Tree in memory of, or in honor of, a family member or friend with a gift of \$10.00 or more. These bells (in honor of) and stars (in memory of) will display the name of your friend or loved one. Your tax-deductable donation will go toward nursing scholarships offered by Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Given in memory or honor of _____
(Circle one)

Given by: _____

Address: _____

Amount donated \$ _____

Send acknowledgement to: _____

Address _____

Date: _____ A donation in the amount of \$ _____ has been made by:

(Name of Donor) _____

(Address of Donor) _____

To Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

Signature of Hospital Auxiliary member receiving donation

HIGHLANDS AREA UPCOMING EVENTS •

Through Tues., Dec. 3

• Bosnia Mission Fundraiser. Help build Barns in Bosnia. \$10 per ticket and win an iPad and more! A 32GB Wifi + Cellular iPad: Value \$729, a 32GB iPod Touch: Value \$299, an iTunes Gift Card: Value \$100. All proceeds to fund the Highlands United Methodist Church Bosnian Mission Trip scheduled for May 2014. Limited to only 1000

tickets sold. You do not have to be present to win. All items shipped directly to you. Tickets can be purchased at the Methodist Church Office at 315 Main Street.

Through Nov. 27

• Macon County Boys Basketball Registration Time (ages 6-14) Sign your son up for Macon County Community Basketball building memories, connecting

with friends, and, running up and down a court learning fun skills and how to be a part of a team. Register online 24/7 by visiting www.MaconCountyBoysBasketBall.com or register in person at the Highlands Recreation Park. Deadline is November 27. For more information, call Michelle Munger at (828) 342-3551 or the Highlands Recreation Park at (828) 526-3556.

Mon/Thurs.

• Hatha Yoga. 10:45a at the Episcopal Church. 828-482-2128. RYT, YA

Wed.

• Hatha Daybreak Yoga. 7:45a. Coleman Hall in the First Presbyterian Church. 828-482-2128. RYT, YA.

Thurs., Nov. 14

• The November 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 Macon County Cancer Support Group will meet Thursday night at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Angel Medical Center. November is recognized as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month. Guest speaker will be Theresa Ramsey. She will be speaking about pancreatic cancer in her family and a special event that is coming up Friday night, November 15. Light refreshments will be served. A \$50 gift certificate will be given away. Everyone is welcome.

• The League of Women Voters presents a program on the MC Soil and Water Conservation District. The meeting will be held at Tartan Hall at noon. Attendees are welcome to bring a bag lunch.

• A Public Education Forum at the Franklin High School from 6-8:30p in the Fine Arts Center. "A Reality Check: What are class sizes, Do our students have individual books, What areas have been hurt the worst, What are our greatest needs, and What can you do?" Door prizes. Presented by the League of Women Voters and the MCDP. For more information call 524-7283.

Fri., Nov. 15

• The High Mountain Squares will host their Harvest Dance this Friday night from 6-9 p.m. We will collect can goods for Second Mile Ministries which will be given out in Thanksgiving food boxes. The dance will be at the Macon County Community Building, GA Road (441 South), Franklin. Marty Northrup from Columbus, NC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome.

Sat., Nov. 16

• At The Bascom, from 5-7p, Giving Trees Opening Reception and Nog Off. The Bascom's annual holiday event and a celebration of local artists, organizations and vendors. Sample homemade egg nog recipes and tour the combined opening receptions for In these Mountains and Giving Trees. Call 526-4949.

• At The Bascom, "In These Mountains: This is My History" opening reception from 5-7p. Artist Talk: 5:30p. Free.

• NAMI Appalachian South is offering a free in-service for educators, families and others involved in the lives of children, to increase understanding of the early warning signs of mental illnesses in children and adolescents, and to raise awareness of suicide signs and risk factors, at the Macon County Community Building, 441 South in Franklin, 9:30 – 2:45. Lunch is provided. There is no charge. Please RSVP (828) 526-9510 email foursealandscape@aol.com.

• The Highlands Plateau Greenway will have its monthly work trip this Saturday, November 16th. Anyone interested in participating, please register with Ran Shaffner by emailing highlandsgreenway@nctv.com or leaving a message at 828-526-5622. We'll meet at the large upper parking lot (near the pool entrance) behind the Rec Park at 9AM for a brief orientation session. Participants will be furnished the necessary tools and safety equipment. Participants should bring water, rain gear, and a day pack to hold them. Wearing clothes that can get dirty is advised.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 10-mile strenuous hike with elevation change

Gingerbread House Competition



Saturdays, Dec. 6 & 13

• The Franklin Chamber of Commerce will host Franklin's 1st Annual Gingerbread House Competition. The competition will be an added feature of Franklin's Winter Wonderland Celebration December 6 and 13 from 5pm until 9 pm. The gingerbread creations will be located in the Board Room at Franklin's Town Hall (lower level) on Main Street. Entry forms and rules for the competition can be picked up at the Chamber and are available on the Chamber's website at www.VisitFranklinNC.com. Deadline for registration is Monday, November 25 and can be mailed or delivered to the Chamber. For additional information call the Chamber at 828-524-3161.

Playhouse showing 'Last Vegas' this weekend



Fri.-Sun, Nov. 15-17

• At Highlands Playhouse: Last Vegas starring: Robert De Niro, Michael Douglas, Morgan Freeman & Kevin Kline. Showtimes are 4 & 7pm. To purchase tickets in advance call 828-526-2695.

HIGHLANDS AREA UPCOMING EVENTS •

of 3000 ft. on Black Rock-Pinnacle Loop in Sylva. Meet at Dillsboro Huddle House at 8 am, drive 10 miles round trip. Call leader Don O'Neal, 586-5723, for reservations. Visitors welcome, but no pets please.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 9.5 mile moderate-to-strenuous hike with elevation change of 900 ft. to Cabin Flats, following Bradley Fork to the old logging camp. Meet at Okonaluftee Visitor Center in Cherokee at 9 am, drive 8 miles round trip. Call leader Keith Patton at 828-456-8895 for reservations. Visitors welcome, no pets.

Sunday, Nov. 17

- At the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, flutist Christina Smith and pianist Robert Henry will present a recital, offering music of Müthel, Milhaud, Liebermann, and Prokofiev. Christina Smith is principle flutist of the Atlanta Symphony.. Donations accepted at the door.

- Auditions for the HCP winter play, "Weekend Comedy" written by Jeanne and Sam Bobrick, will be held at the PAC at 3p. We will be looking for a couple who appear to be in their late 20s, early 30's, and an older couple of their 50s. Call backs, if necessary, will be on Monday, November 18 at 6 pm

- First Presbyterian Church will host an old fashioned Hymn Sing at 4pm on Sunday. Song leader will be Stell Huie with Angie Jenkins at the piano.. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 1.5-mile easy hike on Wasilik Poplar Trail, with elevation change of 300 ft, to an historic old poplar tree in Standing Indian campground area. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 3 pm, drive 28 miles

round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors welcome but no pets please.

Tues., Nov. 19

- The Highlands Dialogue concludes the Fall Sessions on Tuesday with "The Ethics of Resource Allocation in Healthcare", (A Handout will be available at the Hudson Library). Our coordinator is Rodney Roe. Meetings are 10-11:30a at the Hudson Library.

Thurs., Nov. 21

- Franklin community blood drive at First Baptist Church. 12:30 to 5p. Go to www.redcrossblood.org to schedule an appt.

Sat., Nov 23

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take 4.5 mile moderate hike to Round Mt. with lots of ups and downs on a Forest Service road and views from the top. Meet at Cashiers Rec Center at 10 am, drive 12 miles round trip. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations. Visitors welcome, no pets please.

Mon., Nov. 25

- The monthly meeting of Jackson County GOP and last formal meeting in 2013 is on Monday, November 25th, 6:00 pm to eat/ 6:30 pm to meet at Ryan's in Sylva, Special guests and speakers are District Judge Kristina Earwood and District Judge Roy Wijewickrama. For Jackson County GOP information call Ralph Slaughter @ 828 743-6491, email: jacksonctygop@yahoo.com or go to the website: jacksoncountygop.com for news items, email and phone numbers for elected officials and announcements of coming events.

Wed., Nov. 27

- The Eastern Star will be selling its pumpkin rolls and pecans in front of Bryson's Food Store. Pumpkin Rolls are \$15.

Pre-order both at 526-9582 or 342-4378.

Fri. & Sat., Nov.29-30

- At The Bascom, from 10a to 5p, Artists Marketplace at the Dave Drake Studio. Features a wide variety of homemade original artworks by many of the region's finest artisans, priced to fit any budget. Call 526-4949.

Sat., Nov. 30

- Town of Highlands Christmas Tree Lighting festivities beginning at 6 p.m. on Main Street at the Highlands United Methodist Church. Carols and visit from Santa.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 7-mile moderate-to-strenuous hike to Albert Mt. Via

Flutist Smith to perform at the Episcopal Church this Sunday



Sunday, Nov. 17

- At the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, flutist Christina Smith and pianist Robert Henry will present a recital at 2 p.m. offering music of Müthel, Milhaud, Liebermann, and Prokofiev. Christina Smith is principle flutist of the Atlanta Symphony.. Donations accepted at the door.

Yellow Patch, returning on the Appalachian Trail to Betty Creek Gap. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9:30 am, drive 44 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations.

Visitors welcome, no pets please.

Tues., Dec. 3

- How to sign up for the Affordable Care Act presented by

- See EVENTS page 17

Eastern Star Pumpkin Roll and nut fundraiser coming up

Pumpkin Rolls

Highlands Chapter #284 Order of the Eastern Star is once again selling pumpkin rolls. We will be selling pumpkin rolls in front of Bryson's Food Store on Wednesday, November 27. Pre-orders may be made by contacting Paula Gordon, Secretary, at 526-9582 or 342-4378 and leaving a message with your name and phone number. Pre-orders are requested as this will be the ONLY time in 2013 that you will be able to purchase a pumpkin roll, but -- you don't have to pre-order to be able to get one. Don't miss out. Pumpkin rolls are \$15 each.

Pecans

Eastern Star will also be selling pecan pieces and pecan halves from the 2013 crop. The pecans are in 16 oz bags and will be on sale. Please call Paula Gordon, Secretary, at 526-9582 or 342-4378 and leave a message with your name and phone number. We will call back once the pecans have been received in November.

Hymn-sing at First Presbyterian Church is this Sunday



- First Presbyterian Church will host an old fashioned Hymn Sing at 4pm on Sunday. Those attending may choose a hymn they wish to sing from the 1938 Cokesbury Hymnal. Song-leader will be Stell Huie with Angie Jenkins at the piano. Also featured will be several vocal soloists. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicap entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Bel Canto founded the HCCDC music program

In 2009 Bel Canto asked Frances Oakley, then Chair of the Board of the Highlands Community Child Development Center [HCCDC], to visit a music class at the preschool program of the Highlands United Methodist Church. The idea was to convince Frances to start a music program at HCCDC. Bel Canto offered to provide initial funding for the music classes.

Angie Jenkins was the music teacher at United Methodist and her teaching of songs to the

children convinced Frances that HCCDC should have music classes. In addition, Frances wanted the children to be exposed to artists playing musical instruments, so that the instruction would be instrumental as well as vocal. Angie Jenkins was hired to teach the classes. Bel Canto provided the funding and has continued its funding through the generosity of Bel Canto donors.

Angie Jenkins has been teaching music to Highlands children for 30 years and through her work with

the Gordon Center and its predecessor programs as well as HCCDC has taught and now teaches music to all the children enrolled in preschool programs in Highlands.

Angie says she loves to hear from parents and grandparents that their children sing the songs they have learned in her music classes.

"I have collected approximately 200 songs through the years. Included are songs about the weather, the seasons, animals, numbers, the alphabet, proper manners, patriotic



songs and nursery rhyme songs. I have recently composed songs to help the children learn the days of the week, the months of the year, to buckle their seatbelts, to brush their teeth, to wash their hands and to cover their mouths when they sneeze. The children love to sing."

The music classes have followed Frances Oakley's plan to expose the children to instrumentalists. Angie

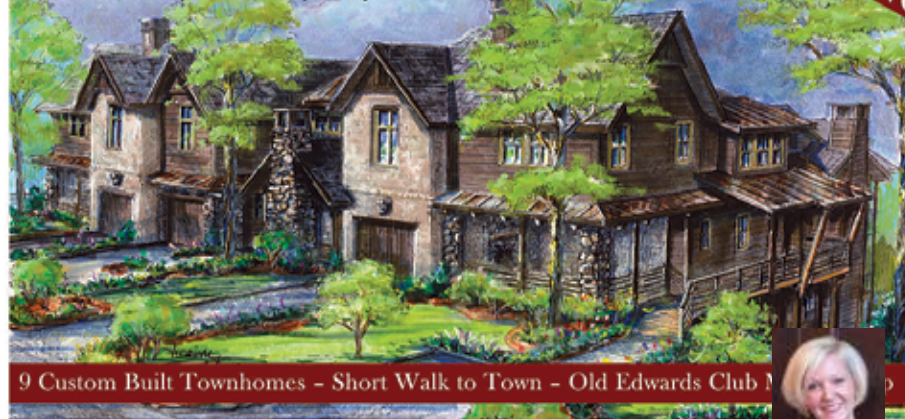
invites guest musicians each month to demonstrate their instruments to the children. She has had most all the instruments of the orchestra as well as bagpipes, guitars, mandolins, the pipe organ, brass quintets, string quartets and many others.

Bel Canto allocated HCCDC music program with a grant of \$6,500 this year. Plans are to continue this support into the future.

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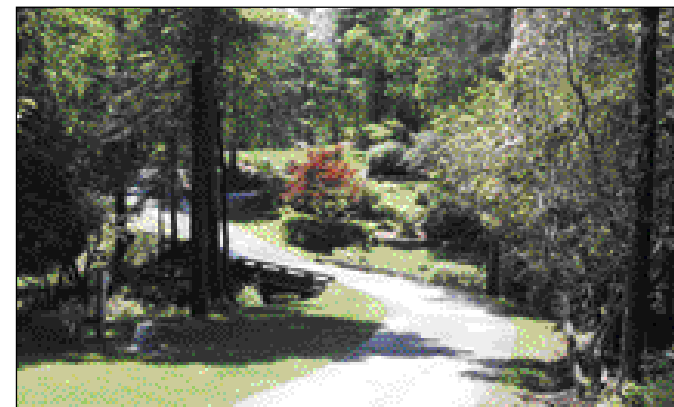
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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

HHS Dahlia Festival honors its winners



The third annual Dazzlin' Dahlias Festival included more than 200 entries for area gardens. This exciting event which is one of the primary fund-raising events of the Highlands Historical Society was held on Saturday, September 14th at the Highlands Civic Center. Ribbons were awarded to growers in five major categories. Festival volunteers thank everyone who so generously shared their flowers with the more than 300 visitors who toured the Festival.

Arrangements of dahlias brightened the tables during the Patrons Party which was held at the Farm at Old Edwards. Party goers enjoyed the Mexican theme which celebrated the origin of the dahlia. Next year's Dazzlin' Dahlias Festival will be on September 20, 2014, the third weekend of the month, which is a little later than usual. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

The winners for this year's festival:

Multiple Blooms

Best in Show: Michael Holland; First Place: Beverly Howell; Second Place: Mike Kaiser; Third Place: Clyde Howell; Honorable Mention: Berry Edwards, Robin Phillips (3 entries), Betty Fisher (2 entries), Mark Han, Marlene Viers

Arrangement

Best in Show: Michael Holland; First Place: Cecile McCaul, Charlotte Hamner; Second Place: Sammie Lefler; Third Place: Betty Fisher; Honorable Mention: Doug Aldridge, Beck McKee, Pamela Brown, Sandy Norton, Barbara Estes

Over 8" Bloom

Best in Show: Nancy Anderson; First Place: Doug Aldridge; Second Place: Barbara/Jim Estes; Third Place: Betti Hankey; Honorable Mention: Barbara Estes, Michael Holland, Nancy Anderson

Under 8" Bloom

Best in Show: Tom Claiborn; First Place: Barbara/Jim Estes; Second Place: Carolyn Marshall; Third Place: Ann Benton; Honorable Mention: Barbara Estes (6 entries), Sally Caffery, Clement Davis (6 entries), Marlo Hernandez, Lorraine Bryant (4 entries), Nancy Anderson, Tom Claiborn, Ann Benton (4 entries) Becky McKee, Tom Crawford (2 entries), Clyde Howell, Beverly Howell, Penny West, Jane Youmans

Novelty Bloom

Best in Show: Pam Brown; First Place: Beverly Howell; Second Place: Nancy Anderson; Honorable Mention: Tom Claiborn, Pamela Brown, Mary Berry

Strain talks about bears at MtnTop Rotary



Cynthia Strain founder of Bear Education and Resources was the featured speaker at Mountaintop Rotary Club's meeting this week. Cynthia informed club members of the several "dos and don'ts" which lead to a peaceful and safe co-existence with our bears. Most importantly she reminded us never store waste

outside unless using a bear proof container, avoid feeding birds when bears are active and don't throw meat and fish waste into your compost pile. If confronted by a bear use direct eye contact

and a take charge attitude. Be prepared with several effective bear deterrents such as a high pitched whistle or a soup can one half filled with pebbles to shake.

September Rotary Scholars of the month



The Rotary Club of Highlands honored the October Highlands School Scholars on Oct. 29. Pictured with Nicole Lui, HS School Counselor, and Rick Reid, Club President are Kaylee Oakley, elementary school winner, Rebekah Park; high school winner and Hannah Holt; middle school winner.

Free Holiday-related Support Group forming

Bonnie Gramlich, Licensed Professional Counselor at The Counseling and Psychotherapy Center of Highlands is offering a free support group for those feeling lonely or troubled at this time of year. The group will meet on Tuesdays at 6p. for one hour beginning on Nov. 26 through Jan. 7. The group will meet at the Peggy Crosby Center. This free group is open to all but registration is required, Call Bonnie at 828-342-0546.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Don't take the bait regarding health care!



Tension is good. Apparently, our forefathers had the foresight to see the need for tension, good tension, between the three branches of our government. Historically, each political party can and often does keep the other party from extremism. The President has veto power and the congress controls the power of the purse. Democrats represent their constituents just as Republicans represent theirs. We do not have a democracy but a republic and because we have a republic we have a built-in "good tension."

At times that tension seems to heat up. We are as a nation certainly tense about the means by which all in our country can enjoy the benefit and security of having health insurance. Those who support the current law that is to provide all Americans with health insurance call it by its official name, the Affordable Health Care Act. Those that greatly oppose it label it "Obamacare."

Regardless of where you side on the law, there is one thing that I notice eroding the fabric of America that those in the church seem to be missing. I am a strong believer that politics have no place in pulpits. The preacher has but one job in a pulpit. Preach the Word of God and shut up about most everything else. Pulpits can and should offer a biblical perspective in the midst of upheaval. Most of America, certainly the media, is debating if not arguing about policy and the President. Sometimes it gets out of hand. This process will eventually work itself out but in the meantime we have this "insult-fest" that can potentially polarize us as a people.

The preacher in me has to say to those who follow Christ: "Do not take the bait!" There is nothing wrong with having political opinions and differing political ideology. I certainly have mine. Yet part of a Christian's role in society is scripturally clear regardless of your politics. Two things about government are clear. God establishes government and we as believers are to pray for those in authority regardless of their political flavor.

The apostle Paul wrote a letter to the believers in first century Rome who had been and would be persecuted by dictatorial emperors. He wrote: Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 18

Proverbs 3:5 • PLACES TO WORSHIP • John 3:16

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Wed.: Men's Bible Study -8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church

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Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

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Dr. Mark Ford, 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.

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Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; School – 9:30
Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast
Wednesdays – Choir – 7

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Sunday: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.
Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376
Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 9:09 & 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.
Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 – children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 –
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Thurs:12:30 – Women's Bible Study (nursery)

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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

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Sunday School – 10 am, Worship Service – 11 am

Highlands PD log entries from Sept. 17. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Sept. 17

• At 1:20 p.m., a shoplifting incident was reported at the Highlands Gem Shop on S. 4th Street where an amethyst bull valued at \$450 was taken.

Sept. 27

• At 10:45 p.m., a simple assault of a 16-year-old was reported at the soccer field at Highlands School.

Sept. 29

• At 4:24 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Main Street.

Oct. 2

• At 12:44 p.m., criminal damage to property, trespassing and larceny were reported at a residence on Bowery Road, where household goods, sport and recreational items, appliances, toys, furniture and numerous other items were stolen.

Oct. 5

• A little past midnight, officers responded to a one-vehicle accident in the Macon Bank parking lot.

• At 9:10 p.m., an aggressive bear was reported near the Ugly Dog Pub on S. 4th Street.

Oct. 11

• At 8:30 a.m., a burglary without forced entry was reported at a residence on Cullasaja Drive where rugs valued at \$2,500 were taken.

Oct. 21

• At 2 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Horsecove Road.

• At 4 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

Oct. 18

• At 7:30 p.m., damage to a car at a residence on Foreman Road was reported.

Oct. 21

• At 9 a.m., criminal damage to property was reported at a home on Horse Cove Road where an outdoor light fixture valued at \$400 was broken.

Oct. 25

• At 2:50 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 east.

• At 10:36 a.m., a mother bear and two cubs broke the metal hinge of a door at Cardinal Cleaners and entered the building on N. 4th Street and Foreman Road.

• At 5:55 p.m., officers responded to a woman at the Peggy Crosby Center when a person communicated threats to her.

• At 5:18 p.m., a simple assault in a parking lot at Spring and 5th streets was reported.

Oct. 26

• At 1:55 a.m., the theft of a automobile from Main Street was reported.

Oct. 31

• At 5:50 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident near Helens Barn Ave and Spring Street.

Nov. 2

• At 4 p.m., officers were asked to be on the lookout for a 2002 gold Toyota 4-Runner driven by a 48-year-old man who may be in possession of numerous items stolen from the Bi-Lo store in Franklin and carried away in green and brown Bi-Lo shopping bags.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Nov. 11.

• At 10:41 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Clubhouse Trail. EMS transported to the hospital.

• At 10:49 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Satolah Fire Department while they fought a structure fire on War Woman Road.

celebration December 6 and 13 from 5pm until 9 pm. The gingerbread creations will be located in the Board Room at Franklin's Town Hall (lower level) on Main Street. Entry forms and rules for the competition can be picked up at the Chamber and are available on the Chamber's website at www.VisitFranklinNC.com. Deadline for registration is Monday, November 25 and can be mailed or delivered to the Chamber. For additional information call the Chamber at 828-524-3161.

... EVENTS continued from page 13

Cynthia Solesbbe with Mountain Projects, at 2 p.m. at the Hudson Library. For more information call 828-400-4177.

Thurs., Dec. 5

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

Saturdays, Dec. 6 & 13

• The Franklin Chamber of Commerce will host Franklin's 1st Annual Gingerbread House Competition. The competition will be an added feature of Franklin's Winter Wonderland Cel-

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... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 16

on themselves (Rom. 13:1-2).

Paul later wrote to his son in the faith, Timothy, the fol-

lowing statement: I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be

made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness (1 Timothy 2:1).

The bottom line is this. Scripturally, Christians are to pray for those in authority. That doesn't mean there shouldn't be strong debate, opposing views and political frustration. The distinction concerning Christians in America today is that we may just be a bit more caught up in the politics and missing the point of our presence in this great country. Maybe we need to complain less and pray more for our leaders. Let's certainly engage in the political process but let's not lose our call to pray. An ongoing frenzy should never limit nor suppress the power of prayer in the church. Amen?

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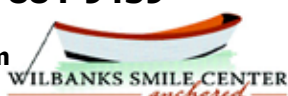
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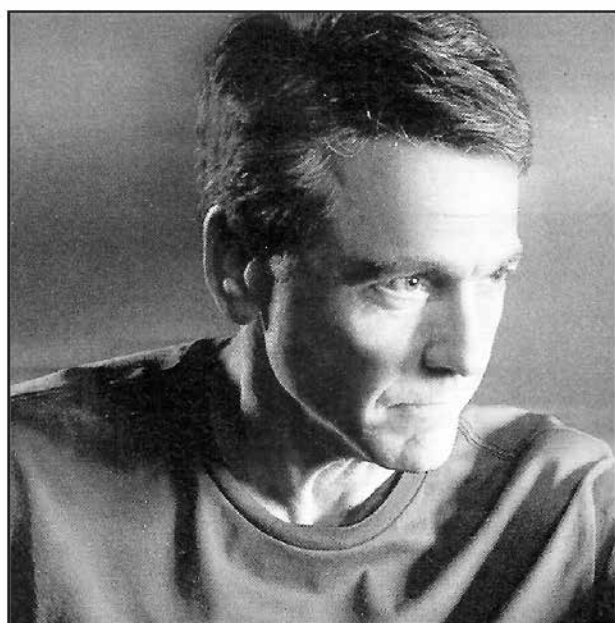
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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Golf tournament raises \$10,000 for SOWF



Pictured from left are Bill Zoellner, Chairman of the event and Matt Bateman, Jerrett Calloway, Donnie Calloway, and Lucas Calloway members of the winning team at the golf tournament held on October 4 at Highlands Falls Country Club. The team won with a score of 54. The annual charity event which was jointly sponsored by Mountaintop Rotary Club and SOWF (Special Operations Warrior Foundation) raised almost \$10,000. Proceeds from the tournament were divided equally between Mountaintop Rotary Club for further charitable giving and SOWF for funding scholarships for children of members of the Special Forces who have been killed in action while serving our Country.

Highlands Country Club's Bob Jones Invitational Golf Tournament gives back



The 32nd annual Bob Jones Invitational Golf Tournament, held annually at Highlands Country Club, raised over \$425,000 for Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Approximately \$296,000 of that amount also represented pledge payments to the Foundation's "Campaign for Community Healthcare Excellence." This year's tournament was August 10th at Highlands Country Club. Earle Mauldin, Co-Chair of the Bob Jones Golf Committee and Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation Executive Director (left), presented a check to Robin Taylor, Foundation Executive Director. Over the course of its 30+ year history, beginning in 1981, the Bob Jones Tournament has raised more than \$3.5 million for the hospital. Funds raised assist the hospital in sustaining day-to-day services, emergency care, top quality physicians, and up-to-date facilities for our surrounding mountain communities. The 2013 Tournament committee members were: Earle Mauldin Co-Chair, Anne Bailey Co-Chair, Wayne Beckner, Allen Hardin, Helen Hobbs, John Mckey, Jr., Jim McElwee, Jim Santo and Ruthie Watts.



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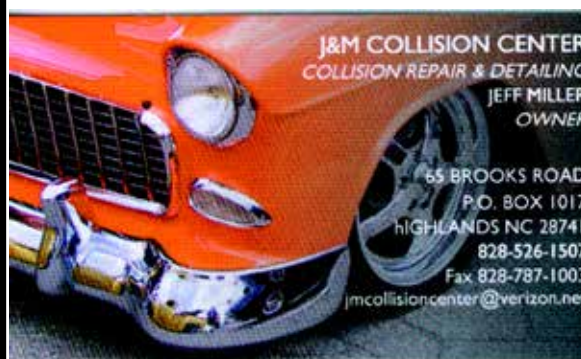
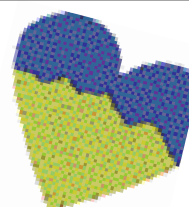
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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Macon County BOC receives LTLT's annual Brunner Award

Holding the artwork are Commissioner Ron Haven and past commissioner Bobby Kupperts.



The Macon County Commissioners received the 2013 Robert and Virginia Ramsey Brunner Land Conservationist of the Year Award during LTLT's annual Fall Celebration on November 2 at the Cowee School in Franklin, NC. The award recognizes the Macon County Commissioners' essential role in conserving the historic Cowee School, which is now being repurposed as a community and heritage center.

The Brunner Award was established in 2004 to honor the Brunners' vision and generosity, which were instrumental in the founding of LTLT.

The support of the Macon County Commissioners was pivotal in preserving the Cowee School facility and providing funding to transition the old school into a heritage center that will benefit the local area by serving as an educational, cultural heritage, recreational and economic development resource. The Macon County Heritage Center at the historic Cowee School has begun a bluegrass concert series and former classrooms are repurposed for various groups, including the Macon County Historical Society and the Eastern Band of Cherokee. The Center also houses the Cowee Pottery School and Cowee Textiles.

Macon County Commissioner Ron Haven, and former Commissioner Bobby Kupperts accepted the award. Kupperts noted, "I want to thank LTLT. We wouldn't be here if it weren't for them...we wouldn't be here if it weren't for the Macon County Historical Society and the CCDO [Cowee Community Development Organization]. I cannot say enough about the people in this community: they've just been exceptional. I am thrilled to death..."

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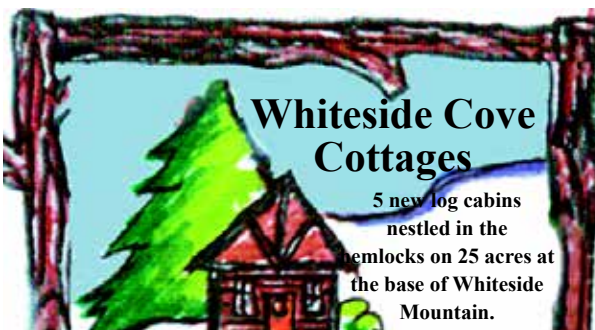
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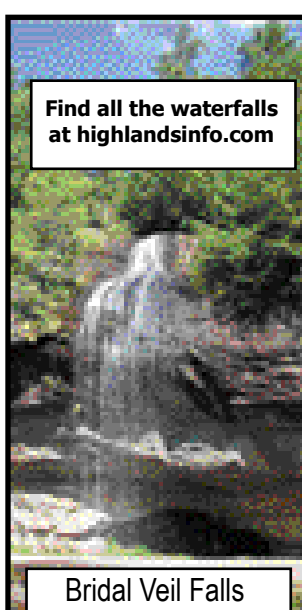
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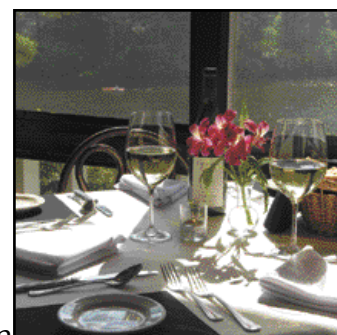
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