

# Highlands' Newspaper FREE

Volume 5, Number 39

PDF Version - www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Sept. 27, 2007

**On-going**  
 • Live music every night at 7:30 p.m. and during brunch on Sunday at ...on the Verandah restaurant.  
 • Live music at Fressers in Helen's Barn with Cy Timmons Wed-Sat 6 p.m. until.  
 • Hal Philips at the piano at Skyline Lodge and Restaurant, Fri. & Sat. at 6 p.m.  
 • Step Aerobics - Rec Park, 4-5 p.m., Mon., Wed., Thurs. \$5/class.  
**Every Monday**  
 • Recreational Bridge 1 p.m. at the Rec Park. \$3 per person.  
**Every Wednesday**  
 • "The Bible Tells Me So" at 6:15 p.m. at the HUMC.  
**Every Thursday**  
 • At Main Street Inn, piano and vocals in the wine bar 6-9 p.m.  
 • Beth Moore's "Believing God" at 9:30 am - 11:45 a.m. at Community Bible Church.  
**Every Saturday**  
 • Live music at Cyprus Restaurant in the Dillard Village Shopping Center at 9:30.  
**Through Thursday, Oct. 18**  
 • 2007 Macon County Basketball registration at Highlands Rec Park.  
**Thursday, Sept. 27**  
 • UCWA's annual meeting at the Civic Center from 6-7 p.m.  
 • Highlands Rotary Bingo at the Highlands Community Center from 6:30 to 8:30.  
 • PAC's Male Chorus at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each. Call 526-9047.  
**Fri. & Sat., Sept. 28 & 29**  
 • "The Pastel Experience" at Bascom-Louise Gallery from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call the gallery at (828) 526-4949.  
 • At Vivace, at Trunk Show of jewelry by Louis Abrams of Birmingham.  
**Fri.-Sun., Sept. 28-30**  
 • The Highlands Playhouse Antique Show, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Sapphire Valley CC. Sunday, noon - 5 p.m. Call 526-2695.  
**Friday, Sept. 28**  
 • "Customer Appreciation Day" and ATM unveiling at RBC Centura Bank, 10 a.m. to 3  
 • At the Highlands Historical Museum, Angie Jenkins, signing her book "Highlands, N.C...The Early Years," from 1-3 p.m.  
**Saturday, Sept. 29**  
 • Eco-Tour Adventure on Satulah Mountain 10-2 p.m. Lunch included. Free to HCLT members; \$25 for non-members. Call 526-1111.  
 • Satulah Club Yard Sale at First Citizen's Bank, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
 • At Cyrano's Bookshop, Angie Jenkins signing her book "Highlands, N.C...The Early Years" from 6-8 p.m.  
 • At High Country Cafe, a "country supper with live music" 5-9 p.m. \$12.95.  
 • Benefit for Owens family at Satolah Fire Dept. at 5 p.m. Supper and live music.  
 • Scaly Mountain Turkey Shoot at Scaly Mountain Fire Station on Hale Ridge Road.  
**Thurs.-Sunday, Oct. 4-7**  
 • "Broadway Melodies" at Highlands Playhouse at 8 p.m. and 2 p.m. Call 526-2695 for tickets.  
**Tuesday, Oct. 2**  
 • Free movie at PAC. "A Good Year" at 7:30 p.m.

## PB says 'yes' to outdoor displays

Finally, after a succession of Town Board and Planning Board meetings, a decision was made concerning the display of outdoor merchandise.

It's allowed.  
 At the Sept. 24 Planning

Board meeting, members agreed upon verbiage allowing outdoor merchandise displays similar to the one in Vail, CO.

"The area to be used for outdoor display must be located immediately adjacent to the

establishment displaying goods and entirely upon the establishment's own property. Sidewalks, building entrances and exits, driveways and streets shall not be obstructed by outdoor

• See OUTDOOR page 41

### • Inside •

Obituaries .....	3
Wooldridge .....	4
Cooking on the Plateau	12
Gardening .....	17
Home/Hearth .....	20
Upcoming Events .....	34
Classifieds .....	39
Real Estate Transfers...	41
Police & Fire .....	43

## BOE says no to SIATech charter

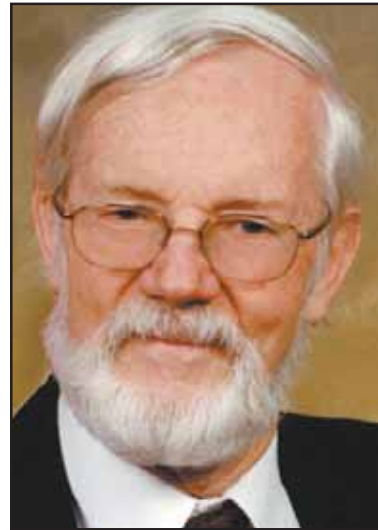
A alternative charter high school won't be happening in Macon County, at least not with the backing of the Macon County School Board.

At the Sept. 24 school board meeting held in Highlands, Superintendent Dan Brigman asked the board for a final word on the subject.

"Last Friday, Sept. 21, I received an invitation from an employee of SIATech, Inc., the second in nature, to support its initiatives for starting a charter high school in our area," read Brigman from a prepared statement. "The reason I bring this up in formal session this evening is to clarify where this board of education stands in regards to the notion of supporting a charter school endeavor in Macon County."

School Board Chairman Donnie Edwards said since there is a cap on charter schools in the state - currently 100 - "It's a dead issue." "Besides, every student in Macon County gets state money for his or her education and money from local current expenditures," said Edwards. "A charter school would take students away

• See CHARTER page 38



Larry Brannan



Dennis DeWolf



John 'Buz' Dotson



Gary Drake



Alan Marsh



Larry Rogers

## The race is on for three Town Board seats

Six candidates have lined up for three seats on the Highlands Town Board. Two seats are now occupied by Commissioners Dennis DeWolf and Alan Marsh who are both running for their second term; the other will be vacated by Commissioner Herb James who leaves the post after

four terms. Neville Bryson has decided not to run.

This issue begins a six-week question and answer series with the candidates. Each week they will answer a question beginning with:

Please tell citizens a bit about your background and why

you think you would be a good Highlands Town Commissioner.

• Larry Brannan

As one of a family of eight, I quickly learned the value and art of 'negotiating'. I also learned the necessity of considering the wants and needs of others. My

• See RACE page 6

### Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
73-50°F	70-48°F	71-49°F

# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • LETTERS •

### Vote 'Yes' for the Land Transfer Tax

Dear Editor,

The non-profit Maconhomeowners1000 Committee has voted to promote and encourage all Macon County registered voters in their precincts to vote for the Levy of Land Transfer on ballot of all county-wide places as provided and advertised by Sara Waldroop, Chairman of Macon County Board of Elections. Polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Absentee ballots are allowed and request for absentee ballot must be made in writing and received in the Macon County Board of Elections office by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, October 11, 2007. Requests may also be done in person at the Macon County Board of Elections for the absentee ballot to be mailed. Absentee ballots must be received by 5 p.m., Monday, November 5, 2007.

All residents who are registered to vote in either party or as an independent may vote in this non-partisan referendum. Macon County is only one of four counties in North Carolina where this important Land Transfer Levy referendum (better known as impact fees) will be held.

This referendum has no detrimental effect on the existing property and business owners in Macon County.

This impact fee will generate revenues from the majority of persons living out of the state, including developers purchasing property in Macon County and will generate income beyond the ad valorem taxes now being paid by all homeowners.

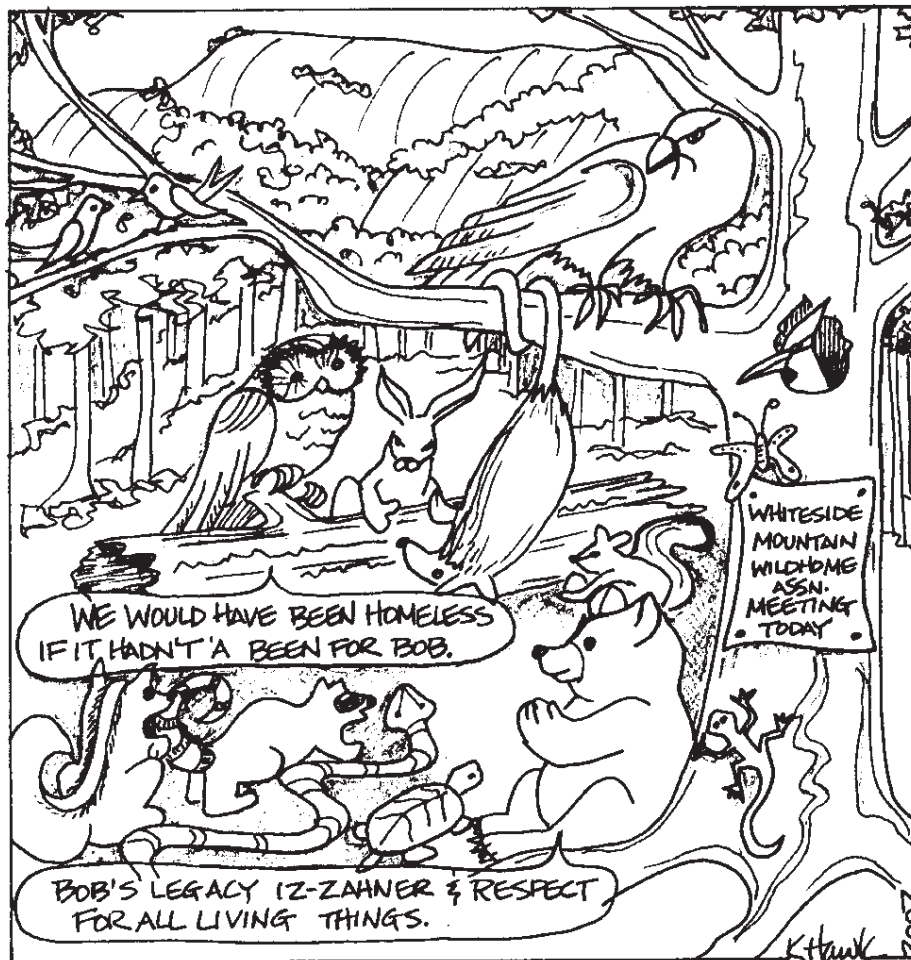
The major "special interest" group opposing this referendum is the many realtors in the county who exploit the benefits and beauty of Macon County to their sales advantage, including low taxes and many services not offered in their existing properties in wealthy neighboring states.

Not only has the North Carolina Association of Realtors spent thousands on advertising and publicity, but the Franklin Board of Realtors is planning to spend thousands of dollars on newspaper ads, direct mail and billboards to defeat this necessary means of supporting the existing facilities in Macon County.

Should this referendum fail, Macon homeowners should expect sizeable increases in their ad valorem (homeowners) taxes in the near future.

One example is that of widow Louis (Social Security income only) and disabled son, Glenn Stiwinter, Jr., of Sugarfork in Franklin. Their very modest home

## • HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



WHEN IS A MAN LIKE A MOUNTAIN?  
WHEN THE MAN IS BOB ZAHNER.

### LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands' Newspaper. Please email letters by Monday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

## Highlands' Newspaper

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## • LETTERS •

was taxed this year at \$600 but without impact fees becoming a reality now and in the future, the Stiwinters can expect their annual taxes to be increased many fold, perhaps as much as \$4,000 or more annually, as will all homeowners who have supported and paid for all the roads, fire, law enforcement, EMT, courthouse, schools, utilities, recreation, library, water, sewage, Department of Aging, NC extension services, vocational rehabilitation, transportation and a host of other improvements paid for by our long time residents for over 100 years.

The county's acting chairman has been a homeowner and businessman in all parts of Macon County since 1973 and realizes that impact fees should be the means of raising taxes in the future. This will require further action by the State of North Carolina for possible Home Rule for impacted counties such as Macon to provide and determine their needs for their beautiful and endangered county.

Any and all financial support for this referendum may be sent to our mailing address, PO Box 981, Highlands, NC 28741 to counter the Realtors' lobbyists, including Rick Zechini of Raleigh.

Help us defeat the efforts of the wealthy Realtors by supporting our need "for" the impact fees to be voted upon November 6th. Contact us also via email: [maconhomeowners1000@sprynet.com](mailto:maconhomeowners1000@sprynet.com)

MC Homeowners Assn.

### What's in it for Highlands?

Dear Editor,

I am writing concerning your article in the Sept. 20th Highlands Newspaper about the school bond issue. The article states that 42.1 million earmarked for schools will be mostly spent in the Franklin area. This is the second large school spending program in recent years.

In your article Superintendent Dan Brigman is quoted as saying "within two years the school district will began saving about \$788,000 per year which will free up funding for Highlands and Nantahala schools."

I assume this money will be from saved maintenance costs. Since Highlands pays 47% of the ad valorem taxes for Macon County and will pay most of the proposed real estate transfer tax the small amount of monies (we may) receive in return does not compute! Can you tell me why Highlands' taxpayers should vote for the bond issue?

John W. Cleaveland, Highlands

• See LETTERS page 13

• OBITUARY •

**Josephine Howard**

Josephine Howard, age 89, of Franklin, N.C. died Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2007 at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. She was born in Barnesville, GA, the daughter of the late Robert Powell and Teresa Mabel Greene Howard.

She graduated from Florida State University, receiving her master's at the University of Denver. She was an entertainment director for the Third Army. She was on the faculty of Montverde Academy, Valencia Community College, Daytona Beach Community College and University of Central Florida.

She is survived by her son, John M. "Buz" Dotson and wife, Mary of Highlands, NC, and two granddaughters, Miranda L. and Rebecca E. Dotson.

No services are planned. Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

• MILESTONE •

**Florida Governor Crist makes veterinarian appointment**

On Sept. 19, Governor Charlie Crist appointed Robert "Bob" O'Neil, 59, of Coral Springs and Highlands, self-employed veterinarian to the State Board of Veterinary Medicine. He succeeds Joann Helm. The appointed term begins September 19, 2007, and ends October 31, 2010.

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This 15+ acre estate parcel offers a very private setting with a covered bridge, 4000 feet of frontage, trout stream, huge pines, park-like setting, beautiful man-made fully stocked pond and multiple places on flat building sites to build your mountain getaway. Covered bridge and 5+/- acres with 1800 ft. on the stream can be purchased for \$588,000.



This unique antique log cabin was built in 2005 but looks like it has always been nestled next to the river. gated entrance, security system, custom lighting, extra large closets, 3 stacked stone fireplaces, loft in one of the bedrooms, commercial grade stove with pot filler, large tree house deck with views to the river, custom draperies, beautiful landscaping, and cedar shake roof. \$1,995,000



In town home within walking distance to Main Street. Land is adjacent to the Highlands Land Trust for great privacy. 2 BR 2 BA plus a huge loft, granite kitchen and covered deck with fireplace. Large stone fireplace in the vaulted great room and on the screened porch. Wonderful kitchen with nice appliances. Finished 2 car garage and on a nearly level wooded lot. \$495,000



Totally remodeled and all on one level, this craftsman style home features a large vaulted great room with a stone fireplace, vaulted kitchen and dining area, 3 BR 2 BA with generous closets, stucco finish walls in the guest bath, and lavish master bath. Large yard for the children or pets to play in plus a 2 car garage. All this and a wonderful winter view of Shortoff Mountain. Priced to sell! \$449,000



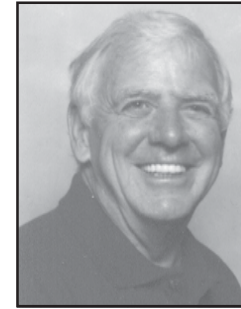
The "Owl Wood" is an adorable old Highlands cottage. The separate "Owlette" has 1/2 bath and bedroom/playroom. It could be used as a guest cottage or studio. The home is walking distance to Main Street, neighbor to Highlands Biological Center, and tucked into an old growth rhododendron wooded lot with lots of charm and privacy. \$645,000



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## 'Heigh Ho, the Dairy-O

*A special apology: Please forgive me for having to use the "ho" word but it is part of a children's song. Am I fired yet?*



**Fred Wooldridge**

•  
**Feedback  
is encouraged!  
email:**

**askfredanything@aol.com**

Remember that cutesy little propaganda song from your childhood called A Hunting We Will Go? I am not sure about the heigh ho, the dairy-o part or how that fits into gunning down deer, but one thing for sure, no one catches anything and lets it go. Have you read the words to that dumb song? Get real!

I have re-written the first verse so sing along and see if you like it...more better. "A hunting we will go, a hunting we will go, heigh ho, the Skol e-o, a hunting we will go. We'll shoot a deer, then we'll cheer and drag it back to camp. We'll gut our deer, drink some beer, we'll guzzle till we cramp. Heigh ho, heigh ho, it's off to hunt we go." Good, huh?

Hunting season is here and I'm pumped. The testosterone is flowing through me and the desire to slaughter a poor defenseless creature is overwhelming. Hunting down and killing unarmed critters is all part of the male bonding system set up centuries ago right here on planet Earth. On Mars, we...oops, I mean they do it different, but that's another story. Here's how it all happened in Kentucky, where I grew up.

By the time I reached the age of 14, my dad took one look at me and determined I was ready to hunt. He knew this because he saw that I could actually "get excited" while staring at an algebra problem. This is one of the signs it is time to kill something.

He packed my stuff, handed me a shotgun and turned me over to a good friend of his and his 14-year-old son who owned a hunting camp. After going over the basics, like which end of the gun the bullet comes out, we set out to do some target practice.

This is when I learned how easy it is to kill. "Just point the shotgun towards that beer can and pull the trigger. No need to aim," my instructor said. I pulled the trigger and learned two things. One, I killed the beer can and, second, I was now lying on my back

from the kick of the shotgun. My shoulder was hurting, but not as bad as that beer can. I was forced to do this six more times until my shoulder was a beautiful shade of purple. Fun, fun! That night we sat around the fireplace in the cabin and cleaned our guns. This, I found, also caused me to "get excited." I was instructed to go to bed early as we would be up at three, ready to kill.

At three the next morning, I learned my next important lesson

about hunting. One should never, never, ever bring a female on a hunting trip. The owner of the cabin brought his beauty challenged buck-toothed daughter to help cook and, of course, she got to sleep in. As I was groping around the dark cabin looking for my shotgun shells, I quietly passed her bed when she woke, panicked, and slammed me across my nose with a bed lamp. Could I make this up? I still have the dumb scar.

I was lying on the floor with a broken nose, complete with bleeding gash. It would have hurt more except the pain in my shoulder was overwhelming the pain in my nose. We threw on the lights and by now I had bled all over everything, including her bra. "What will mom say?" she kept screaming. "Who cares?" I kept screaming back.

The gash was deep and I needed stitches. Since it was 3 a.m. and the nearest doctor was 40 miles of winding roads away and he was probably off hunting anyway, it was decided I would forgo the stitches. Instead, our fearless leader pushed the gash closed, shook some Pillsbury all purpose flour over the wound to clot the blood and sealed it with duct tape. POW, good as new. This did not cause me to "get excited."

P.S. Later in life, I was sent to a school that taught me how to hunt and shoot humans. This was tricky but much more fun 'cause some of them actually shot back. Also, there were no buck-toothed girls around to hit me with lamps.

• Read Fred's book I'm Moving Back to Mars

## How far do you go for a 'friend?'

**W**hat do you do when an old friend turns on you? What if the friend is not human, is called man's best friend, and the victim of the attack is your baby? What if your dog bites your kid? This wasn't a vicious attack, one in which the animal mauls a child and rips his face off. A 10-month-old crawled to the dog and disturbed him while he ate.

Crockett is not a pit bull or rottweiler, breeds associated with violent behavior, and which together account for half of all bites. He is a nine-year-old chocolate lab, a family pet and long-time hunting companion, a member of a breed usually associated with gentle behavior. His victim, and I guess that is an accurate, if inflammatory representation, was bitten on the face and spent three days in the hospital for treatment of resulting infection. Because of the infection, sutures which had been placed the night of the incident, were removed leaving open wounds which child's parents must pack with antibiotic impregnated gauze every day. Luckily, little Jamison will be as good as new after further plastic surgery.

I have no idea what, if any psychological consequences he may suffer. His parents were forced to make a difficult decision. I can't say they were wrong. I wasn't there and it wasn't my kid. All the same, I think they made a mistake. I just hope it doesn't come back and bite them, or their child. They decide to spare ole' Crockett, although he has been banished from the house and currently resides in the garage. I wonder how long the exile will last and what impact it might have on his personality. I wonder if he is, at this very moment, cowering among the weed eaters and duck decoys, plotting his revenge.

I'm not saying that the decision to kill an old canine friend is painless, but in my case, at least, it would be an easy, because I see no alternative. I would not consider the severity of the injury or a display of remorse as mitigation. Thousands of years ago, man invited dogs into his cave. Man agreed to shelter and feed the dog, and much later, learned to love him. The dog's duty was to hunt with and protect the man, and to accept the man as master. In my mind, the contract cannot be broken. If the dog bites the man, any man except an intruder, he must die. I don't care if he is blind, or hurting, if he was surprised or hungry, if the attack was aggressive or defensive. The circumstances just don't matter to me.

I like to think that I love animals as much as the next guy, but I guess I don't. I've had at least one dog nearly all my life,



**Dr. Henry Salzarulo**

**Feedback is encouraged.**

**email: [hsalzarulo@aol.com](mailto:hsalzarulo@aol.com)**

first as a kid, and continuously since I finished medical training. At one time we owned five dogs, which led me to the conclusion that one is the ideal number. I have loved some of my dogs more than others, and have kept a couple of them alive long after a more sensible person would have euthanized them. I've never paid thousands of dollars for a total hip replacement or a cataract operation, we did pay \$2,000 to have Sadie's spleen removed, but that was an emergency. She was

young and in perfect health except for a ruptured spleen. She was a stray who had shown up as a scrawny pup at our barn in Seneca. She was dirty and infested with parasites. More ticks sought refuge in her ears than homeless souls in a New York City shelter on a winter night. She had no monetary value, but was, and still is, a good dog. I'm glad that she is alive and enjoy her companionship, but Lizzie and I still argue about the cost of saving her. She thinks her care was a bargain. She thinks that I'm an insensitive tightwad.

Maybe a willingness to spend thousands of dollars to mend our pets is what separates us from the Koreans, who buy their dogs by the pound. By that measure, Lizzie is farther removed from Koreans than I. Maybe the love of animals that permeates our culture is an indication of an advanced civilization. On the other hand, it may be simple silliness. The English, who are both advanced and silly, love dogs every bit as much as Americans. The Chinese, whose culture is rich and ancient, share a taste for dogs with the Koreans, although that is changing among the newly wealthy Chinese, who are more likely to have a dog for a pet than for lunch. Our neighbors in Seneca allowed their kids to name their calf. Then they slaughtered it. We had canned remains of Beefsteak Huey in our pantry for years before discarding it uneaten.

We spend billions of dollars of dollars to purchase, feed, care for, and adorn our dogs, while resenting assistance to our poorest human neighbors. I have friends who outfit their labs in little life jackets for a trip to the lake. These are descendants of the famous water dogs of Canada, and are among the best swimmers in the canine world. Guilt ridden pet owners who must board their animals may now choose between a conventional kennel and a doggie spa. My mother's sisters, both children considered their dogs as family members, and included greetings from them on hol-

• See ANOTHER VIEW page 16

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... RACE continued from page 1

father was an ironworker and from 1939 to 1948 we moved all over the western half of the United States. This was not only a great adventure but a priceless learning experience.

After high school graduation I did a tour in the U.S. Navy that included Korea, Vietnam, and a large part of the world. After leaving the Navy, using the GI Bill and day jobs, I received a B.S. in Electronics Engineering from New Mexico State University. Following graduation, I moved to Los Angeles to work in the Honeywell Missile Division. More importantly, while in Los Angeles, I met and married a beautiful California girl, Cherie, my wife of 45 years.

After one year with Honeywell, I was offered a job in the San Francisco area with Lockheed Missiles and Space Company – the company that would be my employer for the next 30 years. As a kid, I really enjoyed reading and this included a lot of science fiction. Boy, I would just about work for free for any company that had Missiles and Space in its name – especially in San Francisco, my adopted

home town! Over the years, Cherie and I had the opportunity to travel around the world. What we saw and experienced during this travel made us value what living in the United States offers in the way of prosperity, choices and freedoms. We also learned to appreciate all the sacrifices and the efforts of the people who made our way of life possible.

During my career with Lockheed Missiles and Space we lived in San Francisco, Charleston and Great Britain. My work encompassed: engineering design, production facility evaluation and maintenance, test facility installation, and engineering consultant to the British Navy for two years. Additionally, I had various management assignments including: procedure preparation and negotiation, contract preparation and negotiation, missile assembly and testing, production scheduling and reporting, production training, and management training.

My connection with Highlands

We first started visiting Highlands in 1972. We bought land and built a house near Lake Glenville in 1984. We moved

into our house in downtown Highlands in 1997 and live here year around. In 1999, I started volunteering at Mountain Findings and have been president since 2004. I volunteered to work at Mountain Findings to help others. In retrospect, I personally have gained a lot from being there. I enjoy meeting people and helping people. It has been my privilege to meet and become friends with Highlands' people of many different backgrounds and to understand the large variety of viewpoints, needs and opinions in our community. Talking with people born and raised in Highlands is especially interesting and informative. Having lived in and visited many towns and cities, I have observed community decisions that got it right and those that got it wrong. I believe this gives me a different perspective and an advantage for serving on the Town Board.

Why should you vote for me to be Commissioner?

The first questions one should ask of any candidate for public office are - Why are you a candidate? What are your motives? What do you expect to gain if elected?

I am a candidate for the Town Board because I, and apparently quite a few others in Highlands, think that many of the changes made in our town in the last few years have had a significant adverse impact on what we feel is the 'character' of Highlands. If this trend continues unchecked, the character may well change from a pleasant and prosperous mountain village to something more like a gated Wally World theme park exclusively for the very rich. I am a candidate to help prevent further unnecessary degradation of the 'character' of Highlands. Change is going to happen and can be beneficial for all of us, but it must be better controlled. I am a candidate because I can make a difference in the decisions that shape the future of our Highlands.

I care very much about the near and long term future of Highlands. When I encounter situations that are not quite right, I would rather work to help fix the problem and not just ignore it or criticize those trying to make the decisions in our behalf. Having lived in many places, I have a keen appreciation for the qualities that make Highlands so special.

•See RACE page 7

• SPECIALTY FOODS •



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## ... RACE continued from page 6

Without continued effort, vigilance and determination, those qualities will be eroded and lost.

I believe my expectations are realistic. I expect to attend lengthy meetings, many of which will be about relatively mundane topics and some will be contentious. I expect to gain the displeasure of some people who are unhappy with decisions I will need to make for the benefit of all people and businesses in Highlands. I expect to gain less sleep some nights when a decision is needed for something that seems to have the townspeople divided. But best of all, I expect to gain great satisfaction when I look back and can say I helped make Highlands the best that it can be for all the people in and around Highlands. I believe that I can make a difference and keep Highlands prosperous and filled with opportunities for her citizens and her businesses and still preserve that which is uniquely Highlands!

I do not underestimate the complexity and difficulty in addressing all the decisions to be made by the Town Board. I do believe that I am well suited to the task. My life experiences, education and work as an engineer have given me the ability to make the best of any situation, considering whom and what is involved, using what is available and still following the applicable rules. I can often see issues and situations from a different perspective and arrive at an optimal solution to reach the desired goals.

• **Dennis DeWolf**

I was on the edge of turning 30 when moving to Highlands with my family. It was my intent when coming here to earn a living producing architectural work in this community and give our children an opportunity to grow up in a small town atmosphere in which I and my wife were raised.

With my wife as a teacher, I couldn't help but be drawn into the lives of the kids in the community even if it was more of a helper to her in her outside of work volunteering with the young people and their families.

I began to realize over time that offered me a chance to make friends and spend time with those whose lives truly created the memorable history and sense of comfortable place that Highlands exudes.

On joining Rotary in 1974, I began to feel even more growing immersion in the community and through the years of volunteering time, ideas, special projects, etc., through our church, the chamber, the hospital, the town through its various committees, boards etc. It wasn't unheard of to spend a minimum of 10% of waking hours volunteering time and energy seeking good things like so many others around me were doing at the same time.

With that said, which is probably more than a person needs to hear, I think it's important that a person who serves as a commissioner should have the experience of being immersed in

friendships and working relationships with as many people as possible from all walks of life and background to aid in guiding the destiny of our town's future.

I've given all possible concerted effort to this latest position of mine the last 3 1/2 years as commissioner which I truly feel has been a gift of responsibility. I'm indebted to those with whom I have served for all their efforts and the same for those who have stepped forward to consider running for this office.

• **John "Buz" Dotson**

Visiting Highlands began in my childhood with my family and my wife Mary grew up in Highlands. Highlands became my home in 1986, and in 1989 I joined a real estate company which I later purchased and reestablished as Preferred Properties of Highlands. My profession as a real estate broker and business owner requires me to keep abreast and informed of not only Town of Highlands regulations and ordinances, but also State of North Carolina laws and General Statutes.

In 1998, I became active with the Town of Highlands when I was appointed to the Appearance Committee. In

2000, I was reappointed to the Appearance Committee and served an additional year. In 2001, I was appointed to the Highlands Zoning Board of Adjustment, serving two terms, most recently as Chairman. My last term ended in July of this year.

Other service/community related positions I have held or am currently serving are the Board of Directors - Peggy Crosby Center, Board of Trustees - Highlands United Methodist Church, and Highlands Rotary Club.

I have seen and felt Highlands' growing pains over the years, and know that some changes have been for the betterment of Highlands, its residents and visitors, and some have not. We are a truly unique town in a unique environment. Highlands and its voters deserve a well rounded Town Board that not only has an appreciation of the past and how we got where we are, but also a consistent vision for the future which allows all of our residents to prosper in a desirable environment.

I feel the experience obtained from being a long standing business owner with service on Town Committees and boards and a knowledge of regulations

and ordinances qualifies me to be a fiscally responsible, knowledgeable Commissioner.

• **Gary Drake**

I was born and raised in Hendersonville, NC and served in the Military (Air Force).

I Spent 39+ years at Delta Air Lines in Atlanta, Ga. Finishing as Manager of Training in Delta's Technical Division.

During my management years, one of my jobs included being Project Manager for a new aircraft program (2 + year project). Brought the project in on time, on budget and met or exceeded all standards set by Delta.

During those 39 years in Atlanta served on several boards outside of Delta, including being president of a large resort development which included golf course, lake, tennis courts, horseback riding, etc.

I also attended several training seminars on how to manage people, budgets and projects and was instrumental in the developing a training course exclusive for the training of Delta's Executive Branch.

I currently own Drake's Diamond Gallery of Highlands, in the process of

• See RACE page 16

## • HIGHLANDS EATERIES •

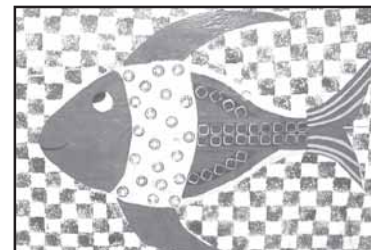
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## REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND

### Soldier Gods



Katie Brugger  
k-brugger@hotmail.com

In this column I have stayed away from politics, partly because there are so many interesting things to talk about other than politics, and partly because in the last seven years I have become disgusted with politicians of both parties and with the political system in this country.

But I can't let the MoveOn.org ad controversy pass by without commenting. The online progressive group placed a full-page ad in the *New York Times* in advance of General Petraeus' testimony with the headline "General Petraeus or General Betray Us?" The ad accused Petraeus of "cooking the books for the White House."

The right-wing media machine is alive with outrage, and President Bush used his latest press conference to attack it. Bush said, "I thought that the ad was disgusting. I felt like the ad was an attack, not only on General Petraeus, but on the U.S. military."

First of all, have you looked at the ad? You can see it at MoveOn.org. The ad is reproduced and there is also an annotated version with almost every sentence backed up by a report or newspaper article.

There are so many reasons to be outraged at the response to this ad. First and most obviously is the hypocrisy being shown by so many on the right. These are the same people who slamed John Kerry in 2004 for his military service to this country in support of a man, George W. Bush, who used his name and connections to stay out of Vietnam. I don't know what happened to John Kerry in Vietnam, but I do know he had the connections that could have kept him safe at home and he chose to put himself in harm's way. How was attacking Kerry's service not an attack on men in uniform?

I also remember in 2002 the utterly appalling ads run to defeat Senator Max Cleland of Georgia. Here was a man who had lost *three limbs* in the service of his country — no way to mock *his* war injuries with purple band-aids — yet the right-wing besmirched his patriotism with ads that morphed his face with Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein, as if they were equivalent. Where was the outrage at this attack on the troops?

The right-wing is also whining that General Petraeus is nonpartisan; that he is a noble, disinterested servant to the people of this country; that his report was the truth as he saw it; that he had been in no way influenced by the White House. Un-

fortunately for this argument, there is evidence to the contrary. Just before the election of 2004 General Petraeus wrote an opinion piece in the *Washington Post* praising the "tangible progress" that was being made in Iraq. It is difficult to see the timing of that article as anything other than a bald partisan action to help reelect George Bush.

But all of these points can be read about in much more detail elsewhere. I'd like to explore another interesting issue.

When did soldiers become Gods in this country? When did these men and women become elevated over the rest of us pitiful civilians? When did it become unthinkable to question a man or woman in uniform? When did questioning the motives of a soldier become such a shocking action that it required a censure by the United States Senate? Why is it unthinkable to imagine that a soldier might, from personal ambition or misguided confidence in a flawed incompetent leader, betray the people's confidence?

I thought we lived in a free country where we could speak our minds and question everything, laugh at everything. Presidents are mocked constantly by comedians.

I am not going to pretend to know about the history of the military in this country. But I do know this much — the standing army in this country was always tiny until the Cold War started. After both the Civil War and WWI the draft ended and the military reverted to a small, token force. After WWII, though, businessmen started thinking about the money involved in maintaining a large military — the war had helped put a decisive end to the Great Depression after all — and the famous military-industrial complex was born.

President Dwight Eisenhower, in his farewell address to the nation, warned of the dangers of the military-industrial complex. He was also, of course, a five-star general, so he knew what he was talking about. These are the words he used: "Until the latest of our world conflicts, the United States had no armaments industry... Now this conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American experience... In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for

• See BRUGGER page 16

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## • HIS & HERS •

### Dan Rather, CBS, Plus Duke

**W**e'll get to the latest ethically-blind, unintentional humor at Duke University in a moment.

Let's begin with the same thing as demonstrated in the \$70 million case Dan Rather just filed against CBS.

The theory of American law is that adversaries – plaintiff and defendant in a civil case – will contest facts, witnesses and experts before the trier of fact (judge or jury) and truth will result. It is not just people like me who've been attorneys forever, but also laymen who read the papers, who know this theory sometimes fails in practice.

The theory will fail on purpose in this case, because neither side is interested in proving whether the documents in this case were forgeries that any competent reviewer would have identified at once. CBS wants to prove they were questionable, and shouldn't have been used. Rather wants to prove they "were not proved false" and therefore should have been used.

I have a personal stake in this. I was part of the small group of bloggers, beginning on FreeRepublic.com right after the Rather broadcast on CBS, who demonstrated that the documents were forgeries, and ridiculously obvious ones. I knew this the moment I read the first post by "Buckhead," an able lawyer from north of Atlanta.

I was in print media production at the time the "Bush National Guard" documents were allegedly produced by his commanding officer. I knew the only machines at that time which could produce the exact typesetting displayed in these documents cost about \$50,000 and were owned only by printing firms. Such a piece of equipment, which cost more than the average house, would not have been available in the HQ of any National Guard unit.

Could the typewriters available at the Guard have possibly produced these documents? Absolutely not. The two typewriters it had then, are known. Neither could match the typesetting of the IBM Selectric, then the most sophisticated typewriter in existence. And even the IBM Selectric, which I worked with in my office, could not have matched these documents.

So, I read Buckhead's comment, slapped my forehead and said, "Of course. He's right. These are forgeries. I should have seen it myself."

Back to the case of Rather v. CBS. Every court of general jurisdiction has the power to appoint Special Masters to examine particular facts in a case and report back. Masters are routinely used when the central issue is highly technical. But there's another reason to use a



**Michelle Mead & John Armor**  
michiemead@aol.com  
John\_Armor@yale.edu

Master. When there's reason to believe both the parties in a case have cause to slant the central facts, the court can and should appoint a Master to make an unbiased examination.

This case is not just about Rather against CBS. It is also about the integrity, or lack of integrity, of the American news media. For about a week after this broadcast, the media circled the wagons to protect both Rather and CBS. Not until the blogosphere forced the issue, did the media change their conclusions.

So, the judge on this case will, in my opinion, be derelict in his duties if he (or she) does not appoint a Special Master in this case. The Master's assignment should be to determine if the "Guard" documents are forgeries, and if so, how obvious was that? Neither Rather nor CBS may like the results of that examination. But the American press will benefit greatly though unwillingly, from that investigation.

While we are on the subject of "justice," here's a brief comment about Duke University. Duke has just announced that it will "invest \$1.25 million over the next five years for its law school to establish a center devoted to the promotion of justice in the criminal justice system and the training of lawyers to fight against wrongful convictions." President Richard H. Brodhead made this stunning announcement this week.

If Duke is honestly interested in promoting justice and avoiding wrongful charges and convictions, it would have spent \$36.08 to accomplish the same result immediately, rather than over the next five years. That would be \$35.67 to mail a letter to each of the 87 faculty members who published the full-page ad assuming the students to be obviously guilty. The letters would say, "Your services are no longer required." (There were 88 such professors, but one recanted and apologized after the NC Attorney General dismissed all charges and

apologized.)

The last 41 cents would be for President Brodhead to mail a letter to the Board of Trustees, letting them know he was leaving, after his failure to deal honestly with the situation.

In the alternative, Duke could name the new Center the O.J. Simpson Justice Center. The decision rule is ever so simple. Black defendants are innocent. White defendants are guilty. Meanwhile, Duke and CBS are once-proud institutions that are dying a slow suicide. Both forgot the lesson that Scottish poet Robert Burns taught in 1786 in "To a Louse":

"O wad some Power the giftie gie u  
To see oursels as ithers see us!"

• About the Author: John Armor practiced in the US Supreme Court for 33 years. John\_Armor@aya.yale.edu He lives in the 11th District of North Carolina.



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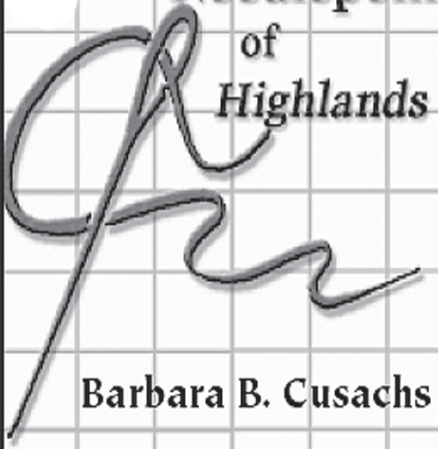
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• COACH'S CORNER •

**Inside the head of a sports' fanatic**

For this week I decided to give you, my faithful readers, the opportunity to find out what goes through the mind of a fan during a huge game, thus, I kept a record of my thoughts while watching my New Orleans Saints play the Tennessee Titans on Monday Night Football.



**Ryan Potts**  
ryanpotts@hotmail.com

- 8:45: The start of my game (or me watching it) has been delayed by a sick wife and baby duty.
- 8:47: I arrive just in time to watch Vince Young scramble for 12 yards. This just in — the Saints defense is (Bill Walton Voice) Hooooorable.
- 9:10: 3-0 Titans as the Saints defense is providing as much resistance as the French in World War...well, every war.
- 9:15: Saints go for it on 4<sup>th</sup> and one and throw an errant deep ball. Did last year even happen? Sean Payton's genius is turning into Brian Billick before my very eyes.
- 9:21: The Titans score again to go up 10-0. Saints have now been out-scored 9,348 to 49 in the last 4 games. That last statistic may be an estimate, but it is close.
- 9:42: After dueling interceptions the Saints offense finally gets a first down, but then stall out at midfield. On a brighter note, Saints punter Steve Weatherford is having a great season. Then again, when your punter is playing well, then you probably stink.
- 9:51: Saints putting together a drive, but it will not be long before disaster strikes.
- 9:59: Reggie Bush with an excellent run...it's under review-no TD. Bush then drops a sure TD pass-but finally scores on third down. Someone pass the Pepto Bismol please.

**Halftime Thoughts:**  
If Vince Young cannot come back healthy then New Orleans has a chance. New Orleans is getting no pressure on the quarterback — one of the reasons why their defense has been thinner than Chris Berman's hairline. The Saints offensive line is getting whipped up front — a sure way to get killed in the NFL.

I like Brandon Jones at WR for Tennessee, the guy can really play. With him and Young and Lendale White the Titans have a bright future on offense.

- 10:26: We are back from halftime in time to watch New Orleans go three and out to start the half, that three and out also included a "gadget" play that failed miserably. Payton has gone straight past Brian Billick and into Ron Zook territory. Even Kornheiser is starting to pile on now.
- 10:37: Reggie Bush gets his second TD of the night and the Saints take the lead. That was an impressive drive from New Orleans-what most people were expecting from the offense before the season.
- 10:45: Holy Cow, Lendale White just dragged Jason Craft 4 yards. That was impressive.
- 10:53: New Orleans loses a dumb challenge (awful decision by Payton) and the Titans punch it in from the one yard line. 17-14 Titans and it's almost the fourth quarter.
- 11:01: Drew Brees runs for the first down on the last play of the third quarter — looks like we are in for a good game, and I am gonna need some coffee in the morning.
- 11:03: Remember what I said about disaster striking? Brees fumbles and the Titans recover.
- 11:10: The Titans cash in off the turnover and it's 24-14. I need some alcohol.
- 11:18: Brees throws another pick — and that's gonna do it folks. Saints start out 0-3 and I can now confirm that this team and franchise are cursed. Stupid voodoo.
- 11:20: Some one get me a Jack and Coke, hold the Coke...stat.

**Morning After:**  
Well, Brees finished with four interceptions, the Saints lost Deuce McCullister for the season with a torn ACL and human turnstile Jason David is out with a broken forearm. The Titans have an impressive young team and have a very good shot at making the playoffs if they can continue running the ball with consistency.

Now if you will excuse me, I am going to quietly burn some incense and see what I can do to avoid sticking pins in a Sean Payton voodoo doll. (Don't judge me people — despair does horrible things to a man)

• CONSERVATIVE POV •

**Good, Better, Best**

Who says there is no good news in the news anymore? I think this past week has produced a cornucopia of goodies. I have attempted to determine which are the best news items and I bring them to you, just in case you may have missed them.



**Don Swanson**  
Feedback is encouraged. Email [swandonson@dnet.net](mailto:swandonson@dnet.net)

**Good News.** That narcissistic, psychopathic murderer, O. J. Simpson, has managed to really do it this time. The legal process is just getting started in his case so who knows where it will end up. But if I may be excused for making a rush to judgment, if the death penalty isn't in play and he gets a life sentence, doesn't that amount to the same thing. After all, if he was sentenced to death, he'd spend 20 years in appeal at which time he'd be 80, if he lived that long.

So, either way, he'd die in prison and be out of our hair, once and for all. That is good news.

**Better News.** Your friends and mine, the folks over at MoveOn.org managed to mess up in spades, putting their liberal sucklings in a hard place. At least, if they had any morals or ethics or whatever is involved, they would be in a hard place.

On January 26, 2007, the Democrat controlled Senate confirmed, by a vote of 81-0, to turn over the running of the Iraq war to Gen. David Patraeus. Recently, MoveOn ran a full-page ad in the New York Times implying that Gen. Patraeus is betraying his country.

So who are these people who deem it proper to attack a military hero in the time of war? Chuck Todd, on-air NBC political analyst says: "MoveOn is sort of like this old friend of the Democratic Party. It's as if it's a friend of yours from high school, and you don't mind hanging out with them back in high school, and then they keep on showing up at your parties, and they get a little drunk and obnoxious

but you are afraid to criticize them because they know too much about you."

John McCain says MoveOn.org should be "thrown out of this country."

Dan Johnson-Weinberger, a lobbyist and member of MoveOn.org defended the ad as "cute" saying he had no knowledge of Gen. Patraeus' personal integrity and had exhibited "hack-like behavior" by "collaborating" with the hacks in the Bush administration.

To quote Tom Bevan's blog on the subject: "I relate all this because it shows what an over-inflated sense MoveOn and

its members have about the current state of affairs. They see public opinion polls showing an unpopular president and frustration with the war and naturally assume those members mean a majority of the country shares their utter contempt for Bush and their willingness to use any tactic necessary, including disparaging a distinguished member of the military, to end the war. It's a gift to Republican presidential

candidates and surely will come back to haunt the Democrat nominee." This is better news.

Unfortunately, none of the major Democratic candidates would distance themselves from the ad, not being willing to offend George Soros and his vast funding of left-wing candidates. As I write, the Senate has voted on a measure that simply said "we support General Patraeus." 17 Senators voted no, including Hillary and others. Obama failed to vote even though he had voted 20 minutes earlier on another issue.

Now for the best news, and it seems to get better by the minute. The Clintons' history with shady oriental fund-raisers has entered the present. Quoting from Wikipedia, "The 1996 United States campaign finance controversy was an alleged effort of the Peoples Republic of China to influence the domestic policies of the United States, prior to and during the Clinton administration and also involved the fundraising practices of the administration itself."

Bill C's convicted Chinese money laundering bagmen, Yah Lin "Charlie" Trie and

Johnny Chung, played a big part in that 1996 campaign finance controversy and it looks like Hillary learned well the Chinese connection. Norman Hsu, convicted 15 years ago for fraud, is described by the NY Times as a "prominent Democratic donor" and surfaced in Colorado under curious circumstances. He has bundled \$850,000 in contributions for the Hillary campaign, which she is "reviewing" to see if they should be returned.

The Times continues, "The travails of Mr. Hsu have proved an embarrassment for the Clinton campaign, which has strived to project an image of rectitude in it's fund-raising and to dispel any lingering shadows of past episodes of tainted contributions."

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## • COOKING ON THE PLATEAU •

### Gear Up For Game Day

On game day, the food is almost as important as the game itself! So treat your hungry halfbacks to a menu that will win cheers all around. Serve-yourself sandwiches score high with famished football fans —especially when beef is the star player. Spicy Braised Brisket Sandwiches team up with beer and chilies to make a zesty filling with just the right amount of heat.

Because brisket is a less tender cut, it needs to simmer gently in a tightly-covered pan until it's fork-tender. No peeking allowed, or you might be called for a penalty! Each time the lid is lifted, steam escapes and slows the cooking process. To get a head start, the beef can be cooked a day in advance, then reheated just before it's time to tackle the sandwiches.

Your game day game plan is a cinch. Simply shred the cooked beef —easy when it's so tender. Set up the fixings — crusty rolls, cheese, giardiniera and Roasted Red Pepper Mayonnaise. Bring out the chilled beverages and get ready to score a touchdown with family and friends!



### Spicy Braised Brisket Sandwiches

Total preparation and cooking time: 3-1/4 to 3-1/2 hours

1 boneless beef brisket, flat cut (3-3 1/2 pounds)  
1 Tbls. Olive oil  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/4 tsp. pepper  
1 large onion, sliced  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
1 1/2 cups beer (12 oz.)  
2 cans (4 ounces each) chopped green chilies, undrained  
1/2 cup ready-to-serve beef broth  
1 to 1 1/2 tsp. crushed red pepper  
6 to 8 Italian or ciabatta rolls, split  
Prepared giardiniera (optional)  
Sliced provolone or jalapeño pepper cheese (optional)  
Roasted Red Pepper Mayonnaise (recipe follows) (optional)  
Heat oil in stockpot over medium heat until hot. Place beef brisket in

stockpot; brown evenly. Remove brisket; season with salt and black pepper.

1. Add onion and garlic to stockpot; cook and stir 3 to 5 minutes or until onion is crisp-tender. Return brisket, fat side up, to stockpot. Add beer, chilies, broth and red pepper as desired; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover tightly and simmer 2-1/2 to 3 hours or until brisket is fork-tender.

2. Remove brisket. Skim fat from cooking liquid; keep cooking liquid warm. Trim fat from brisket. Cut into 4 to 6 pieces; shred with 2 forks. Stir shredded beef into reserved liquid.

3. Serve beef mixture in rolls topped with giardiniera, cheese and mayonnaise, if desired.

Makes 8 servings

## • VIDEO GUY •

**Night Watch**

The 2004 fantasy/thriller, starring Konstantin Khabensky, Mariya Poroshina, and Galina Tyunina (well known to Russian and Eastern European TV and stage audiences, but not to most Americans), directed by \*\*Timur Bekmambetov (\*The Arena, Escape from Afghanistan).

Based on the novel of the same name by Sergei Lukyanenko. In Russian with English subtitles, some versions will have dubbed English, Spanish, and French audio as an option. Not rated but about the equivalent of R rating, for language and violence.

The Storyline: Unbeknownst to most of us, in and amongst us are "Others" who are divided between the Forces of Light and the Forces of Dark, two fairly evenly matched groups who, centuries ago, signed a truce limiting each other's activities (oh, you know, like practicing Black Magic, the quotas of humans vampires are allowed to kill, licenses to cast spells, just your routine stuff like that).

And since there is a truce, there are officers in place to enforce it, as well as a bureaucracy to administer the officers. (This story could only have been written in Russia). The Forces of Light operate the Night Watch, keeping an eye on the Bad Guys, but in the process of policing the Forces of Dark, the officers in question need to take on some of the characteristics of the Dark, creating a little conflict.

Anton Gorodetsky (Khabensky) is one of these officers, and conflicted is the least of what this guy is (Officer Friendly, he's not). While on the trail of an unlicensed vampire, you definitely get the impression that Anton operates with more than a little work related stress. As he tries to save a young boy from extralegal exsanguinations — it seems the boy is not just an ordinary, run of the mill vampire victim, but maybe something more.

OK, I am not a real big fan of vampire films usually, but this really is something completely different. Very cool special effects, sparingly used by American standards, it was the first big-budget Russian fantasy film and one of the first blockbusters made after the collapse of the Soviet film industry. It was also the highest grossing Russian film ever, and the first of three such films (Day Watch, due to be released in October, and Twilight Watch, which for some reason



**Stuart of  
The Movie Stop**

will be filmed in the U.S., and done in English), all based on the novels of Sergei Lukyanenko.

It is well done, creepy, more than a little funny, not at all typical of the vampire film, nor quite like most fantasy/action films. It is in Russian, with subtitles that are actually part of the action and drama of the story, which is a neat touch, I have not seen them done in this manner before, but I'll bet

others will copy this technique. (Language purists and fluent Russian speakers will note that the subtitles do not exactly match the dialog, but it is carefully done, and in keeping with the story).

More great Russian films are Siberian Barber, Brat (Brother), Close to Eden, and My Name Is Ivan. More spectacular fantasy/action films with a touch of ghoulish humor are the Matrix franchise, Batman, Highlander, Shadow of the Vampire, Fantastic Planet, and one of Bulgaria's best films, Black Cat-White Cat. These and about 5,000 others are available for sale or rent at MOVIE STOP VIDEO, stop on by and give a look.

... LETTERS continued  
from page 2

## Let your voice be heard

Dear Editor,

It is time once again for residents of Western North Carolina who love the Chattooga River to let the U.S. Forest Service know if they want an extreme sport on its wild and scenic headwaters.

The agency is considering various proposals to permit whitewater kayaking (both private and maybe commercial) on the river from Sliding Rock in Cashiers, N.C. to the Route 28 Bridge (21 miles.) For more than 30 years, this stretch wisely has been reserved for foot traffic only by hunters, hikers, anglers, photographers, families on a picnic and plain old nature lovers, while the boaters and rafting companies have had free run of the 36 miles of the lower Chattooga.

The Forest Service is holding an open meeting in Clayton, Georgia, this Saturday, September 29, to let the public's voice be heard on the issue. Registration at the Rabun County Civic Center begins at 9 a.m. The meet starts at 10 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. Directions and more details at:

•See LETTERS page 19

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## • HS GIRLS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL •



Sophomore Brie Schmitt



Freshman Marlee McCall



Junior Caroluln Hornesby



Freshman Amy Fogle

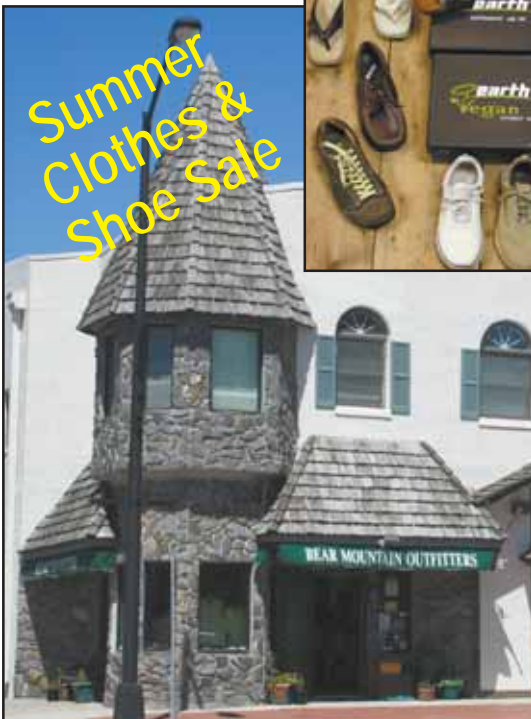
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Freshman Elizabeth Gordon



Freshman Sarah Power

The team beat Cherokee Tuesday night winning three of four games: 25-16, 25-18 and 25-20.  
The next home game is Oct. 1 against conference opponent Blue Ridge at 6 p.m. in the new gym at Highlands School.

# • HS GIRLS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL •



Sophomore Haley Rice



Freshman Courtney Rogers



Freshman Taylor Buras



Senior Danny Puchacz



Freshman Stephanie Puchacz



Freshman Devon Potter

• Not Pictured: Senior Ali Lica and Junior Marisol Ruiz

Photos by Stephanie McCall

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### ... RACE continued from page 7

buying Highlands Appraisal Company and have owned property in Highlands for five years.

Being raised in Hendersonville in these North Carolina mountains, I know the true meaning of a small town. I offer the experience I bring from my years in management at Delta Air Lines and other community minded organizations in Atlanta.

I'm currently involved in the organizations in Highlands: Cashiers - Highlands Humane Society, American Cancer Society Relay for Life and Highlands Mountaintop Rotary.

These are the reasons I will make a good Highlands Town Commissioner.

• **Alan Marsh**

I have been a homeowner in Highlands for 38 years. I have attended Town Board and Planning Board meetings for 25 years. By attending the meetings, it helped me know what was being done and what needed to be done in Highlands.

I served on the town's Land Use Plan committee and the town's Planning Board before I was elected to the Town Board. I am now serving my fourth year on the Macon County Planning Board which just finished writing the first subdivision ordinance for Macon County.

I am presently a board member of the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust; the Historical Society and a trustee of the Highlands United Methodist Church. I wash dishes there every Wednesday night!

### ... ANOTHER VIEW continued from page 5

iday cards. Life-long estrangement followed the suggestion by one of my father's brothers to another to euthanize a sick old dog. Frank's final words to Al were these; "We didn't put you to sleep when you were sick." Al's response is unknown.

Americans are crazy about their dogs, and maybe a little crazy. It's none of my business if you buy Fifi a cashmere sweater as long as you don't dip into your kid's college fund to do it. Come to think of it, it's still none of my business. Somehow, I think

I am a Highlands Rotary member and have been on the Gorge Road trash pick-up crew for 10 years. I have the experience and the desire to be your commissioner for four more years.

• **Larry Rogers**

I am a native of Highlands, since I have lived here all my life. I have owned and operated Larry Rogers Construction & Grading Company since 1986. My wife, Genevieve, and I raised four children here in Highlands. I have previously served many terms as a member of the Highlands Zoning Board. I am currently serving on the Highlands ABC Board.

For the past 20 years, I have been actively involved in L.I.C.A. (Land Improvement Contractors of America.) Since I am an earthmoving contractor, I understand the concern of erosion control, land developing and growth. I'm also very knowledgeable about the town's water and sewer lines. This allows me to offer logical suggestions as to the improvements that could be needed.

I attend the Town Board meetings to stay involved with the issues at hand. My leadership and management skills come from many years of being in business for myself. I know that having the right people to serve on this board is critical to the future of Highlands. The main reason that I could make a difference on this board is because I have the ability to hear and connect with the people within reasonable limits.

### ... BRUGGER continued from page 8

the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist. We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together."

Two Supreme Court Justices wrote eloquently about the danger of censorship: "Restriction of free thought and free speech is the most dangerous of all subversions. It is the one un-American act that could most easily defeat us," wrote William O. Douglas. "Censorship reflects a society's lack of confidence in itself. It is

that if you keep a dog that bites, it is my business. Society thinks it's our business. I know that euthanasia is a painful decision and that it is tempting to make excuses for the dog's behavior, especially if he is a faithful, old friend. I love dogs, and I won't order one for dinner if I happen to attend the Beijing Olympics next year, but I won't permit them to chew off my son's face, either. I don't expect you to take my advice. I didn't have any luck with Jamison's Mom, either.

the hallmark of an authoritarian regime," wrote Potter Stewart.

Maybe the elevation of soldiers to gods is just one more step on the road to a military dictatorship in this country. When we worship the uniform and don't dare question it, we are ripe for takeover.

And by the way, the whole idea of "General Betray Us" wasn't even original. In an online article for the London Times published August 19, 2007, is this quote: "Critics, including one recently retired general, are privately calling him 'General Betraeus' on the grounds that he is too ambitious to deliver a balanced report on the war." [timesonline.co.uk search "general betraeus"]



# • GARDENING ON THE PLATEAU •

## Make Yourself a Rain Garden

By Charlie Nardozi

With hurricane season upon us, even people in the mountains of North Carolina can expect rain. All that water rushing off roofs, driveways and walkways is loaded with oil and other pollutants, and it all ends up in our sewer systems. Since municipal storm water treatment plants often can't handle the deluge, the untreated water dumps into our natural waterways. The EPA estimates that as much as 70 percent of the pollution in our streams, rivers and lakes is carried there by storm water.

We can help stem the flow of polluted storm water into our streams by planting a garden — a rain garden. Rain gardens are specially constructed to collect storm water instead of letting it run off your property. These gardens are shallow depressions located at low points in your lawn that are planted with native plants and wildflowers, so they're both functional and attractive. Storm water is funneled naturally to the garden, where it's stored and allowed to slowly absorb back into the soil.

### • Building a Rain Garden

Your rain garden should be located at least 10 feet from your home in a low spot where water naturally collects. It should have at least one-half day of sun and a gentle slope leading from your roof downspout, driveway or walkway to the garden. You can create a low swale from the roof downspout to the rain garden to ensure that water drains into the garden.

To build the rain garden, mark out a 150- to 450-square-foot area, depending on the size of your house and amount of paved areas. Remove the sod and dig a shallow depression about 6 inches deep. Use the soil to form a berm on the lowest side of the garden to retain water. A 6-inch-deep rain garden should drain water within 7 hours. If the rain garden is

deeper, the water may stay longer, creating a mosquito-breeding site.

### Rain Garden Plants

• Select regionally adapted plants that can withstand periodic flooding and offer seasonal color and interest. When fully planted, your rain garden will look like any other flower garden in your yard. Plant in clumps of at least three of each particular plant, and include ornamental grasses and sedges for texture and to help prevent soil erosion. Create a special "rain garden" soil mix of 50 to 60 percent sand, 20 to 30 percent topsoil and 20 to 30 percent compost. Dig this mixture into the soil to depth of 2 feet before planting.

The native plants you grow will depend on where you live. Some examples are swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), queen of the prairie (*Filipendula rubra*), marsh marigold (*Caltha leptosepala*), columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*), maidenhair fern (*Adiantum pedatum*), Joe-Pye weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*) and turtlehead (*Chelone lyonii*).

After planting, keep the plants moist, well-weeded and mulched with shredded hardwood bark. (Bark chips and nuggets will float away during heavy rains.) Your rain garden will not only help reduce water pollution, it will also be an inviting place for butterflies, bees and birds to visit too.

• Charlie Nardozi, a nationally recognized garden writer, book author, speaker and radio and television personality, has appeared on HGTV, PBS and Discovery Channel television networks. He is the senior horticulturist and spokesperson for the National Gardening Association ([www.garden.org](http://www.garden.org)) and Chief Gardening Officer for the Hilton Garden Inn.

• All materials courtesy of National Gardening Association



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## 2007-2008 school budget accepted at \$40.5 million

The budget for the 2007-2008 school year totaling \$40.5 million was accepted at the Sept. 24 school board meeting in Highlands.

To fund the school administrative unit from the Local Current Expense fund \$9.18 million has been appropriated.

Revenues will come from state and federal allocations, \$708,486 and \$30,752, respectively; local revenues of \$423,628 and county and fund balance appropriations of \$6,454,510 and \$1,264,040, respectively.

Further funding for instructional services and system-wide services of \$24,223,712 has been appropriated. That allotment comes directly from the State Public School Fund Allocation of \$24,223,712.

Amounts from the Federal Grants Funds totaling \$2,484,714 will fund regular instructional services, special population services, school-based support services and alternative program and support services.

The Child Nutrition Fund of \$2,774,783 will be funded through state, federal and local revenues.

Capital Outlay Funds totaling \$1,815,980 will be used to fund renovations in progress at Franklin High School, East Franklin School as well as roofs and heating and air-conditioning at other schools; and to fund architectural fees for the new 5-6 school and K-4 school.

Funding for that capital outlay is coming from the Public School Building Capital Fund equaling \$335,000; a general county appropriation of \$700,000; a county match of \$111,667; \$10,125 in QZAB funds; \$152,985 in bond proceeds which the county has expended but will get back if the bond passes; FUNB balance appropriation of \$481,684 and a Live Vocational Fund Balance appropriation of \$24,519.

School Boards are usually reimbursed local sales tax it is charged and the board questioned if it might also be entitled to a state sales tax reimbursement.

"That could pay for a lot of furniture and equipment," said Edwards.

School Finance Officer Betty Waldrop said it might be possible for the county to get the state sales tax back because municipalities usually can. "If it can, the county might be able to give it back to the school district," she said. The board is going to investigate the matter.

Unlike counties and municipalities, Waldrop said the school system can't do multi-year budgets for long-term capital outlay projects so the entire project amount has to be put in the current year's budget. "We will pay what we can and roll it over into the next year's budget," she said.

- Kim Lewicki

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... LETTERS continued from page 13

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/forest/projects/alternativesworkshopinfo.shtml>  
 Might be time to let 'em know how local folks feel about this.

Joseph Gatins  
 Satolah, Georgia  
 For Friends of the Upper  
 Chattooga

## Stand up for the Chattooga River

Dear Editor,

I live in Cashiers on a piece of property that borders the Chattooga River. Several years ago the Chattooga River was designated a wild and scenic river. A summer resident of Cashiers, Ervin Jackson, played an instrumental role in helping this to come about when he invited a few congressmen to come rafting on a section of the lower river. They left so impressed with the natural beauty of the river that soon after legislation was enacted to designate and preserve the entire river as wild and scenic. Since that time, the US Forest Service

has actively sought to acquire land along the corridor of the Chattooga River. Unfortunately, this has not always been a good thing for the preservation of the land. I grew up enjoying a 30-acre tract of land along this very Chattooga corridor. Once the river was designated wild and scenic, an eager forest ranger (now a real estate broker) began actively courting my friend, an old lady, who owned this 30-acre tract. Eventually, she deeded 25 acres to the Forest Service — ostensibly for preservation. This took place in around 1989. Later, I acquired the remaining 5 acres.

Almost immediately after the Forest Service acquired that land, the traffic in the area dramatically increased. Most people were respectful of the land. Unfortunately, many were not. Trash began to show up in these pristine woods, fishers with illegal electronic devices came to the river and left disgorged fish along the riverside, dirt-bikes whined through the woods. Within five years, the wildlife, once so prevalent along the banks of the river all but disappeared. If you had known this area before,

you would have found the negative impact of human activity disheartening. After some urging as well as a few weekends gathering enough trash to fill entire garbage bags, the Forest Service put a locked forest service gate barricading easy access to the area. It is a gate which I must now manually unlock and lock each time I come to or leave my house. Personally, I do not like such gates but the measure has restricted traffic and over the past 10 years, I have observed the gradual return of wildlife and a reduction in litter.

The river does, however, remain threatened. It has become increasingly polluted. The temperature of the water has risen. Obviously, our environment is threatened. Developers, both local and transplanted entrepreneurs, add additional pressures as does the increasing population growth.

For this reason, it seems ever more imperative to make every effort to preserve the integrity of the areas of the river which have not yet been subject to public access. I know from experience that even the most respectful and well-in-

tioned traffic will have a harmful effect and impact on these pristine areas.

Now there is a large, well-funded group that is lobbying to open the upper river to kayakers. Members of this group have rallied support from across the country to gain the right to kayak through areas that pass through private lands. I know some of these lands. I know the people who live on them. I know their love and respect for the land and the river. I also know that if those lands are open to the public, something precious will be lost forever.

Will the rights of those with private property along the river be respected? Boaters already have access to large sections of the Chattooga River. I have rafted many of them myself. There are 36 miles of beautiful stretches along the lower Chattooga River that are already open for public boating.

I hope that it is not too late to protect our area and our land from the demands of people who neither live nor vote here.

Alison Lee  
 Cashiers, NC

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## • HOME & HEARTH ON THE PLATEAU •

### Cut Winter Utility Bills and Reduce The Carbon Footprint

A Few Simple DIY Projects Can Save Homeowners Hundreds

**W**ant to cut your utility bills, enjoy a more comfortable home this winter and curb pollution with a few easy do-it-yourself energy upgrades? By spending about \$100, you can expect to save hundreds of dollars in energy bills while reducing carbon dioxide emissions – or your carbon footprint – up to a couple thousand pounds per year.

“The benefits of taking an afternoon to do these small tasks are countless,” said Rodney Hawkins, General Manager of Momentive Performance Materials.

Unsealed windows and doors and other inefficiencies translate into higher utility costs and more harmful greenhouse gas emissions released into the environment. “An inexpensive product like silicone caulk can make a home cheaper to heat, more comfortable because the heat is staying inside and the cold air outside, and protected from wet weather damage.”

Consider implementing these easy and inexpensive upgrades that can be completed in a couple of hours.

• **Seal windows and doors with silicone caulk.**

Air leaking through gaps and cracks can add up to as much airflow as an open window. Silicone caulk provides an exceptional airtight and watertight seal to keep warm air inside the home. Because silicone caulk is not water based, there is minimal shrinking and cracking. Acrylic caulk is water based and some acrylics shrink up to 25 percent. That shrinkage may leave cracks and gaps, allowing air and water to move through. A typical home can be sealed with four tubes of high-quality caulk.

• **Wrap the water heater with a water heater blanket.**

Water heating is the third largest energy expense in the home. Insulating the water heater will save energy and money. Gas water heaters should be insulated carefully – check the manufacturer’s recommendations.

• **Turn down the water heater thermostat.**

Many

manufacturers set thermostats at 140°F, but 120°F is usually hot enough for all hot water needs. Homeowners can save between 3 percent to 5 percent in energy costs for each 10°F they reduce water temperature.

• **Install low-flow showerheads.**

High efficiency showerheads can cut hot water demand by an estimated 40 percent. They are inexpensive and easy to install.

• **Wash full loads of laundry – at a cooler temperature.**

Only wash full loads to use less water, and switch the temperature setting from hot to warm to cut the load’s energy use in half.

• **Install an electronic thermostat.**

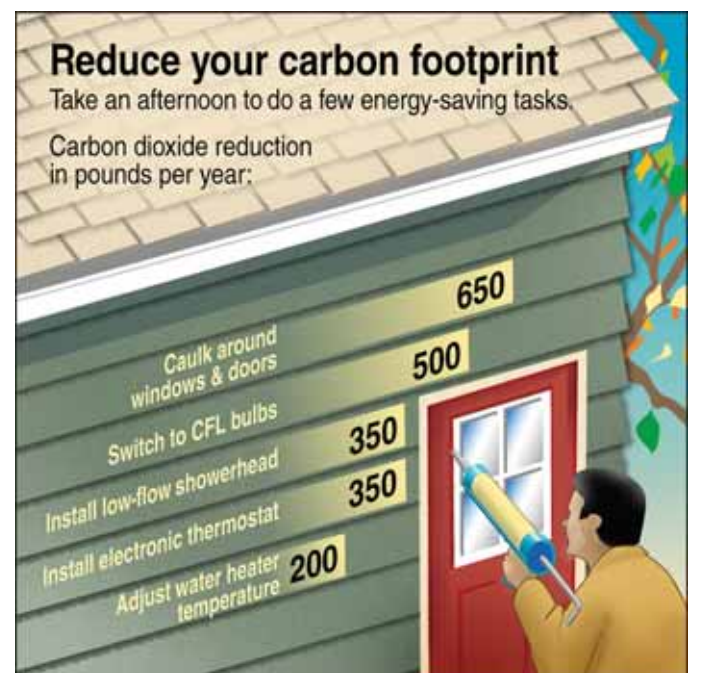
According to experts, turning the heat on and off during the day in an effort to save money actually uses significantly more energy than maintaining a steady temperature. An electronic thermostat is easy to install and can cut down on energy costs.

• **Use compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).**

At \$0.10/kwh, replacing a 60-watt incandescent bulb with a 13-watt CFL will save a consumer approximately \$38 in energy savings over the life of the product.

For additional energy savings and how-to tips, and for information on home sealing, visit [www.gehomesealing.com](http://www.gehomesealing.com).

• Courtesy of Family Features



## • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

### Pleasant Valley Church (That's all you need to know)



**Todd Struble**

Highlands United Methodist Church

Names of churches often lack creativity and pizzazz. In the Methodist denomination there seems to be an abundance of "Grove" churches: Rock Grove, Union Grove, Fair Grove, Shady Grove, Pleasant Grove, Oak Grove, Pine Grove, Cedar Grove, Willow Grove, Walnut Grove, Maple Grove, Orange Grove, Hickory Grove, Cherry Grove, Chestnut Grove. And there are also a lot of "Mount" churches: Mount Shepherd, Mount Olivet, Mount Gilead, Mount Zion, Mount Holly, Mount Pisgah, Mount Pleasant, Mount Tabor, Mount Carmel. Trees and mountains apparently mean a lot to Methodists.

Interestingly, there are also a number of "Saint" churches in Methodism. We have churches named after saints like Luke, Andrew, John, Paul, Stephen. Methodists do not recognize saints in the way that Roman Catholics or Episcopalians do. We have no canonization process, not even a list of saints. It seems rather odd that Methodists would name their churches after saints when we really don't acknowledge saints as a part of our faith tradition.

The church I serve has a straightforward, no frills, practical name: Highlands United Methodist Church. There's no guessing where this church is located or which denomination it represents. I like that it simplifies things. I never need to explain where or what our church is.

The latest trend in a lot of denominations is to hide the name "United Methodist" or "Baptist" or "Presbyterian." New churches have names like "Resurrection Church" or "Sunrise Church" or "Covenant Community" or "Haven of Hope." And then off to the side, at the bottom of the road sign, or in fine print on the glossy brochure it will say, "A United Methodist Community" or "Affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention."

There's this line of thinking among church consultants that denominational titles are a real turn-off to most people seeking a church home. Titles like "Presbyterian" or "Lutheran" or "Episcopalian" conjure up negative images of the church as an out-dated institution stuck in a quagmire of bureaucracy and doctrinal controversies. If you can screen the name, hide the official title, there's a better chance of getting newcomers in the front door. Once they're in, then you slowly and carefully reveal to them the denominational ties of your fledgling church.

I don't know, but it seems to me like there's a lot of time and money and effort spent in trying to hide the

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 43

## • PLACES OF WORSHIP •

### BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11  
First Saturday: Singing at 7:30 p.m.

### CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, Georgia  
The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbeling, Pastor  
Church: 706-746-2999

Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770

Sundays: 10 a.m. - Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

### CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

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Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

### CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rev. Cass Daly • Office - 526-2320

Sunday: Holy Communion - 11 a.m.

(Highlands Community Center on U.S. 64 next to the ballfield in Highlands)

Monday: Evening Bible Study at 6 p.m.

Tuesday: Women's weekly Bible study at 2 p.m.

Wednesday: Men's Bible study at 8 a.m.

at First Baptist Church

Pot Luck Lunch last Sunday of each month.

### CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SERVICES

3rd & Spring Streets

Sunday 11 a.m.

Wednesday testimony meeting 7 p.m.

Study room open Tuesday 2-4 p.m.

### CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Everett Brewer

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

Prayer - 6:30 p.m.

Evening Service - 1st & 3rd Sunday - 7 p.m.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands

Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 Worship;

6:30 p.m. High School Group

Wednesdays: 5:30 p.m. Supper (free for kids 8th

grade and under); 6:15 p.m., Adult Bible Study; 6:30

p.m. programs for students.

Thursdays: 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Rev. Brian Sullivan - Rector: 526-2968

Sunday: 8 A.M. - Holy Eucharist (Rite I) Chapel

8:30 A.M. - Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School

10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist (Rite II); Evening Prayer in the Chapel 5:30 p.m.

Sunday Service on Channel 14 at 10:30 A.M.

Monday: 4 P.M. Women's Cursillo Group

Tuesday: 8 A.M. Men's Cursillo Group

4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry

Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice

Thursday: 10 A.M. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

10:30 A.M. Daughters of the King

• Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.

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Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m.

(nursery provided)

Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.

Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by children's

Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Jr & Sr Youth Group 6:30 p.m.;

Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

Small groups available throughout the week.

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153

Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; School - 9:30 a.m.; Youth - 6:30 p.m.; Choir - 7:15

Wednesdays: Dinner - 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids - 6 p.m.; Prayer - 6:15 p.m., Choir - 7:30 p.m.

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. J. Hunter Coleman, Pastor, 526-3175

Sun.: Worship - 11 a.m.; Sun.School - 9:30 & 9:45.

Mondays: 8 a.m. - Men's Bible Discussion & Breakfast

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. - Seekers

Choir - 7

### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

### HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study

Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Senior Pastor Todd Struble; Asst. Pastor Mike Harris

526-3376

Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.;

5 p.m. Youth Group

Wed: Supper; 6; 6:15 - children, youth, & adults

studies; 6:15 - Adult choir

(nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)

Thurs:12:30 - Women's Bible Study (nursery)

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell

2152 Dillard Road - 526-9741

Sundays: Worship/Communion - 10:30

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Services at the Church in the Wildwood in Horse Cove. Sundays at 7 p.m. through Labor Day. Dress is casual. Old fashioned hymn-sing.

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Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130

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

Choir - 6 p.m.

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

### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871

Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.

For more information, call (706)-745-1842.

### OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Tien, Priest

Parish office, 526-2418

Sundays: Mass - 11 a.m.

Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.

(through last Saturday of October)

### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. - 7 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 10:45 a.m.;

Evening Worship - 6 p.m.

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

For more information call 526-3212.

### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Wayne Price

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

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# MC Watershed Council discusses flood plain map and takeover of sewage plant by Rabun County

By **Sally Hanson**  
Reporter

The Macon County Watershed Council met Wednesday, September 19, to discuss the new floodplain maps released by FEMA on Sep. 5, 2007. The maps were available to be viewed at the meeting, and they will also be on display at a public meeting October 2 at 6 p.m. at the Macon County Facilities Building.

Unfinished business from the last meeting included information from Jenny Sanders of the Little Tennessee Watershed Association concerning a sewage treatment plant proposed for Rabun County. According to Sanders, the plant was once part of Rabun Apparel and was used to treat water used in the textile industry.

"Rabun County is pursuing buying the wastewater treatment plant, and there is a discharge permit that allows the facility to dump three million gallons of treated wastewater a day into the Little Tennessee," Sanders said. If the county is transferred the existing permit, it will mean that up to three million gallons of treated water could be

dumped into the Little Tennessee River a day.

The problem is that the water originates from the Chattooga River Basin. The treatment plant would take in water from Rabun's water supply but discharge it into the Little Tennessee. This is called interbasin transfer, and it means that water is being taken from one watershed and ending up in another.

John Sill said "If we're getting water from another watershed it sets a bad precedent for the future." Even more relevant was the possible impact on the new flood plain maps and ordinance: "If we're putting three million gallons a day into the Little Tennessee, all of the flood studies that have been done are worthless," said Jack Morgan, Chief Building Inspector of Macon County.

Jody Cook with the Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association also expressed concerns about Rabun's proposed conversion of the treatment plant. "What you would build as a wastewater treatment system for

•See WATERSHED page 29

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## Science class at Nature Center

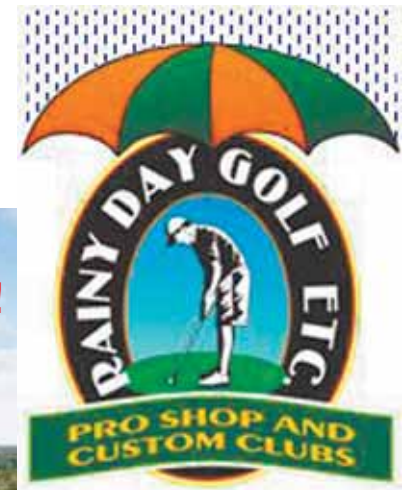


Last week Ms. Chalker's Great Beginnings class from Highlands School took a field trip to the Highlands Nature Center to learn about critters of the Highlands Plateau.

Photo by Stephanie McCall

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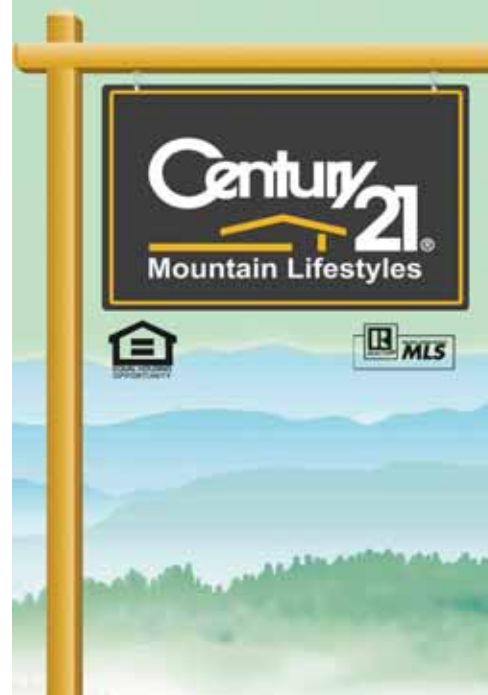
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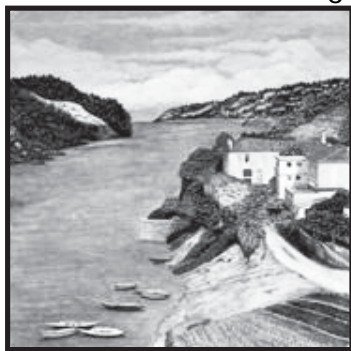
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# Undergoing a sleep study – A personal journey

**By Sally Hanson**  
Reporter

**T**he Mayo Clinic defines insomnia as when a person has trouble getting to sleep, staying asleep or getting restorative sleep. Insomnia can be a short-term problem or it may last for longer periods of time, and the Mayo Clinic estimates that at any given time 10 percent of Americans are suffering from chronic insomnia.

I knew I was probably part of that 10 percent when my doctor recommended a sleep study. The idea was a bit overwhelming, and I admit that I did put it off for a few months in hopes that I would begin to get better sleep. But when I went on a solo road trip and found myself nodding off at the wheel after a few hours, I decided it was time to make the appointment.

I was told to arrive at the hospital by 9:30 p.m., and when I got there I was directed to a regular hospital room. The door to the room was open, and the tech was sitting on the couch surrounded by lots of

equipment. The most surprising thing to me initially was that the tech was male. I suppose I hadn't really given the matter much thought, but stereotypically I was expecting a female to be assigned to a female patient.

I didn't have much time to ponder my situation as I was directed into the adjoining hospital room and instructed to change into what I would wear to sleep. I kicked myself for leaving my camera in my car, as the bed was covered by neatly laid-out leads, and the table had lots of pieces of pre-cut tape and other things upon it. It would have made a great picture.

After signing some consent forms I changed into my sleeping clothes. I had packed a pair of yoga pants, a sports bra, and a comfortable pajama shirt. I was thankful for the bra because several of the leads run down your shirt and pants, and the EKG tracers are stuck to your skin on your chest and left lower rib area. Modesty is often not the primary concern when having a medical test, but it never hurts to be more at ease.

The first thing the tech did was have me thread one of the wires down each leg of my pants. The top of the wires went from my waistband up under my shirt and out the collar of my shirt. Next, three adhesive electrode pads were placed on my trunk: two on my chest and one just under my ribcage on the left side. These were for the electrocardiogram, or EKG, which records the electrical activity of the heart. Then two different bands were placed on top of my shirt and around my abdomen: one on my chest and the other near my waist. These were to measure respiratory efforts while sleeping.

After this, I sat down in a chair and the tech used a tape measure and a marking pencil to mark the places where the electroencephalogram, or EEG, leads would go. This test measures the electrical activity of the brain, and is helpful in identifying different stages of sleep. An alcohol pad was used to cleanse the area of my scalp, and then eight EEG leads were glued to my head and taped down. One of these went in the middle of my forehead, and I would have a nice vertical red pencil mark neatly positioned just above the area between my eyes the next morning when everything was removed.

The tech then moved on to my face. Two sensors were placed around my eyes to record eye movements via electrooculogram, or EOG. Eye movements are helpful in determining which stage of sleep a patient is in. The cleanser that was used on my face burned a little, and the left sensor was just below my left eye, while the right one was placed next to my right eyebrow.

Two more leads were taped to my chin for the electromyogram, or EMG. This method uses muscle movements to identify

sleep stages and also to register any teeth grinding. These leads were evenly spaced below my mouth at the jawline.

Next, a sensor was placed on my upper lip to differentiate between nose and mouth breathing. It required four pieces of tape to keep it down, and my face was beginning to feel very stiff. I wondered if I could sleep with all this stuff attached to me. A microphone was then taped to the front of my neck to record any snoring during the night, and I was asked to hum to help identify the correct placement.

Now everything began to be connected. All the EEG leads were threaded over or behind my ears, as were the ones on my face. A ring of Velcro was used to keep all the wires in a neat bundle. The EKG leads were connected to the three pads, and threaded up through my shirt into the mess of wires. Next, the wires I had put down my pants legs were taped to the muscles on the front of my legs. I was asked to tap my toes so the correct muscles could be identified for this additional EMG. Attachments were also connected to the elastic bands around my chest and abdomen. All the cords plugged into a central box.

After this, I was asked to lie in bed on my back. A pulse oximeter was placed on my index finger, and it was different from any kind I've seen before. I'm guessing it was disposable, as it was more like a sensor with thick tape around it instead of the plastic ones I've seen in the past. It was definitely more comfortable to sleep in than a rigid plastic one. Pulse oximeters measure the percent of oxygen saturation in a person's blood, which is important in identifying sleep disorders related to breathing, such as sleep apnea.

Everything was plugged in, the light was turned out and the tech went into the next room and asked me to complete some tasks to make sure everything was working. I was first asked to lie on my back and close my eyes. Next I had to breathe only through my mouth, then only through my nose, and finally I had to hold my breath. I had to count to five three different times to test the microphone, and for the eye sensors I was instructed to look left and right, then up and down, all without moving my head. Lastly, I pointed my toes for each leg in turn "as if I were pressing on a gas pedal."

The tech came back in and said everything was working fine, then asked if I wanted to watch television for a while before I went to sleep. I don't have a television in my bedroom and don't watch much at all so I decided I'd try to get some sleep.

The technician put my glasses on the table, as I was unable to get out of the bed even to do this, and he turned out the light. As he was closing the door, he said "Have a good night." This struck me as an ironic phrase to use, as I was prepared to have a

•See SLEEP STUDY page 25

## The Highlands Playhouse Antique Show Special Lecture Series

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- The Highlands Playhouse Ticket Office (828-526-2695)
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HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS, NORTH CAROLINA



## ... SLEEP STUDY continued from page 24

lot of difficulty sleeping in a strange environment.

I was almost asleep when the door opened and light filled the room. I was informed that one of the devices wasn't working as it should, and I sleepily turned over to have it readjusted. I was again told to have a good night, and I settled in to try to sleep again.

I went to sleep fairly easily after this, but remember waking up a few times when I heard noises in the hallway or outside. I sleep with an air cleaner in my room at home, so I am not used to many noises while I sleep because the white noise of the air cleaner tends to drown out every other sound. I was also a bit cold when I first tried to get to sleep: the tech had turned down the air conditioning after he'd asked about the temperature, but it took a while to warm up. My feet and hands were freezing, and I wonder how accurate the pulse oximetry was on my frozen finger. I did have to call the technician once during the night so I could go to the bathroom.

It's kind of an embarrassing thing to be 25-years-old and have to get a young man to unplug you so you can go relieve yourself. I know that having to go to the bathroom in the night is a symptom of

some sleep disturbances and not due to a lack of my own self control or fluid intake miscalculations, but there's not much more humbling than having to involve someone else in your routine bodily functions.

I had also missed my evening meal as I was coming from two back-to-back meetings in Franklin. The last meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m., and I ate a meal bar in the car on the way to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. I wondered if the microphone picked up my stomach growling throughout the night, because that meal bar wasn't enough to fill me up.


The time seemed to fly by, and I didn't have any episodes of lying there awake for extended periods of time. I do remember waking up a lot, however. The next thing I knew the door was opening, and it was 5:30 a.m. and time to get up.

The tech wasn't allowed to discuss any results with me, so I'm still waiting to hear what, if anything, was learned as a result of the study. I was unhooked from all the leads and told to rinse my hair thoroughly with warm water before shampooing to get all the glue out. My face had a few red spots from the tape, and they were still a bit raw for a few days afterward, especially the skin under my left eye. Even though I came

• See SLEEP STUDY page 42

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## • HUDSON LIBRARY NEWS •



Bookworm volunteers from left: Edi Walker, Alan Bumgartner, Linda Curtiss, Kay Ward, and Sally Barloga

### Hudson Library volunteer reception

On Monday, Sept. 17, the Hudson Library hosted a reception at Wolfgang's Restaurant to thank the many volunteers who are an essential part of the library. The library staff, volunteers, and members of the board of directors enjoyed baby lamb chops, crabcake puffs, and spinach puff pastries while getting better acquainted.

John Gaston, president of the Hudson Library Board of Directors, commented "without our volunteers the library would have to hire 50 part-time employees. The volunteers are what allow us to provide such excellent service."

Many of the thirteen volunteers at the

library have been active for a long time, but librarian Mary Lou Worley said, "One of our volunteers inherited her position. Judy Chiles, the daughter of long-time library volunteer Libby Chiles, is indispensable."

The Bookworm is part of the Hudson Library and it is completely run by volunteers. Kay Ward started volunteering last year at the Bookworm and has recently become its director. Ms. Ward says "You meet the most wonderful people while working there. And you find the most wonderful books — if I take any more books home I'll have to build a new room onto my house!"

### Free people read freely

By Katie Brugger

Perhaps the most important right in a free society is freedom of thought. Our Constitution enshrines the right to freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, freedom of petition the government and freedom of religion in the First Amendment. All of these are forms of free speech, and all flow from the more fundamental principle of freedom of thought.

Intellectual freedom is the right of every individual to seek information from all points of view so that any and all sides of a question, cause, or movement may be explored. Intellectual freedom is the basis of a democratic system. For a democracy to function properly the citizens must be well-informed.

An important component of intellectual freedom is the right to read the free expressions of others. Before the advent of the Internet the public library was the institution that safeguarded the public's access to ideas and information.

This right to free thought is under continuous assault; every year books are challenged (in an attempt to have them re-

moved from libraries) or banned as dangerous or offensive.

Every year the American Library Association holds a Banned Books Week to bring attention to the importance of ensuring unfettered access to ideas, even those which are unorthodox or unpopular. The American Library Association's code of ethics states "We uphold the principles of intellectual freedom and resist all efforts to censor library resources." This year the celebration is from Sept 29-Oct. 6, and the motto is "Free people read freely."

The list of books that have been banned is long and often surprising, and includes childhood classics. *The Complete Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimm* has been banned for being too violent, containing negative portrayals of women, and for being anti-Semitic. *Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain, has been banned for many reasons also, including for being racist. *Little House on the Prairie*, by Laura Ingalls Wilder, was banned in South Dakota because it contained statements deemed to be derogato-

•See LIBRARY page 27



A birdhouse created by Sue Ann and George Smith is one of the items that will be raffled off at Highlands Arts & Crafts Show, Saturday, Oct. 13 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5.

## Crafted, grown, canned or sewn

The 25<sup>th</sup> annual Highlands craft show is Oct. 13 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center. One hundred vendors are scheduled to set up their booths and be ready to entice thousands of visitors to buy their wares.

For 25 years, people have come to this very special one-day event knowing that it is the best place to find one-of-a-kind gifts, unique pieces of art, delicious foods and condiments, exotic jewelry, and handmade wood and metal pieces.

Each year there are more applicants to participate than space allows, assuring you that each booth offers the best, top quality and highly desirable merchandise. This is an event loved by both exhibitors and visitors in part, because it is all under the roof of the Civic Center and protected from inclement weather.

Four lucky raffle tickets owners will win one of the beautiful donated raffle items. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or \$5 for six and can be purchased the day of the craft show.

All raffle proceeds go to payment of the mortgage on the building where Fibber's is located.

To be raffled this year are: a beautiful fall floral piece created by Nancy Ostema of Cospier Flowers; a basket of delicious jams, jellies, pickles and other homemade treats prepared by Jodie Zoellner and Martha Hawthorne; a hand-made quilt "Mountain Primitive" made by Mary Lou Dendy; a delightfully charming birdhouse made by George and Sue Ann Smith. Admission and parking are free. Craft items to be given away at this year's crafts show. You do not have to be present to win.

Admission and parking are free.

## ... LIBRARY continued from page 26

ry to Native Americans.

As *I Lay Dying*, by William Faulkner, was banned because it "questions the existence of God." Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* was challenged because it allegedly "represents institutionalized racism under the guise of 'good literature'" and "contains racial slurs." John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* was so upsetting it was burned by the St. Louis Public Library in 1939. Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* was challenged because it "centered around negative activity."

Books of art aren't immune from the forces of censorship. A collection of both M.C. Escher's graphic work and Georgia O'Keeffe's paintings were challenged by parents who thought their work contained "pornographic," "perverted" and "morbid" themes.

The American Library Association's website has lists of banned books, organized (as you might expect from librarians) into different categories: at [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org) look on right under "spotlight" for "banned book week."

The Hudson Library has set up a display

of books that have been challenged or banned in libraries around the country under the slogan "Spotlight On: Banned Books Week." The display includes some of the most challenged books from 2006: *The Bluest Eye*, by Toni Morrison; *Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret* by Judy Blume (one of the most challenged authors of the last decade); and *Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett.

President Dwight Eisenhower, in a message to the American Library Association in 1953, affirmed the power of intellectual freedom: "The libraries of America are and must ever remain the home of free, inquiring minds. To them, our citizens—of all ages and races, of all creeds and political persuasions—must ever be able to turn with clear confidence that there they can freely seek the whole truth, unwarped by fashion and uncompromised by expediency. For in such whole and healthy knowledge alone are to be found and understood those majestic truths of man's nature and destiny that prove, to each succeeding generation, the validity of freedom."

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## • STATE & FEDERAL POLITICS •

### New bills to beef up national security

**By Congressman Heath Shuler**

Last week the House of Representatives debated and voted on several important bills to strengthen America's national security and infrastructure.

The first bill the house considered was H.R. 2761, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Revision and Extension Act of 2007 (TRIA). The TRIA program was first created in 2002 in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks and provides a federal backup for private terrorism insurance. H.R. 2761 provided a 15-year extension to the program to preserve it well into the future.

The extension of TRIA will provide better economic stability for major industries, such as real estate and construction by allowing major building projects in areas considered at high risk of a terrorist attack to move forward. The TRIA program has no cost to taxpayers unless there is a major terrorist attack.

TRIA passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support, 312-110.

The House also passed H.R. 2881, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007, last week with strong bipartisan support, 267-151.

The FAA Reauthorization will modernize our Nation's air traffic control system and improve the infrastructure at our airports to enhance security and safety, while reducing travel delays.

The bill also takes the first steps toward creating a passenger bill of rights. If this legislation is signed into law airlines and airports would be required to have emergency contingency plans to take care of passengers who are involved in long flight and tarmac delays, including plans for exiting an airplane if a delay becomes extremely long. These plans would have to include provisions for food, water, clean restrooms, and medical care for passengers. Additionally, the bill calls for strict fines for those airlines who fail to develop or comply with these plans to care for their passengers.

The bill seeks to decrease chronic flight delays by reducing over-scheduling of flights. This is a common-sense measure that will make traveling easier for everyone.

Finally, the bill will work to reduce global warming through the development of cleaner, quieter, more efficient aircraft engines and establishing pilot programs to reduce the amount of time aircraft are idling on runways.

The third major bill that the House approved last week was H.R. 1852, the Expanding American Home Ownership Act of 2007. This bill had tremendous support on both sides of the aisle passing 348-72. The legislation is designed to respond to the sub-prime and predatory mortgage crisis that has hit many Americans.

The Expanding American Home Ownership Act will allow the Federal Housing

Administration to provide more assistance to first-time homebuyers and help more American homeowners who are struggling with sub-prime home loans.

American families, and our Nation, are stronger when more families own their own homes. Home ownership has long been a key part of the American Dream. However, predatory lending practices have threatened this bedrock of our society. Now, with the Expanding American Home Ownership Act we are once again moving in the right direction and helping more Americans own their own home.

The House will be session every day this week.

### ... WATERSHED continued from page 22

a textile plant is not the same as you would build for residential waste," he said. "Someone is going to have to do a considerable amount of updating, and Macon County should be concerned about the effluent."

At last month's meeting, Barry Clinton was charged with drafting a letter to the county commissioners to inform them of the issue. "The intent of the letter is to bring it to the attention of the commissioners and have them recognize that there are questions that haven't been asked. It's a simple matter of responsibility for the stewardship of our own resources," Clinton said. The letter also intends to let Rabun County know that Macon County is aware of their plans.

The board unanimously approved the adoption of the letter, and then moved on to the task of electing a chairperson. Bob Wright, who had been the acting chair, was elected to the position, and Barry Clinton became the vice-chair.

Stacy Guffey also briefly discussed the ongoing issue of recreational vehicle (RV) parks in floodplains. Guffey said a new stipulation is going to be added to the floodplain ordinance requiring all RV parks to have an emergency evacuation plan. Past snares for RV parks have included the definition of a park itself, as well as who is responsible for damage if a flood occurs and the vehicles are carried downstream.

At the close of the meeting Jack Morgan briefly talked about the new FEMA floodplain maps. "These flood maps need to be gone over with fine-toothed comb, and once they are adopted they are the law," he said.

The next Watershed Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 10 at 10 a.m. at the Agriculture Service Building in Franklin.

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Jenkins to sign book at Historical  
 Museum & Cyranos Bookshop





Angie Jenkins, a lifelong Highlander, will be at the Highlands Historical Museum on Friday, Sept. 28, from 1-3 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 29 from 6-8 p.m. at Cyranos Bookshop to autograph copies of her new book, "Highlands, North Carolina . . . The Early Years." Produced by Faraway Publishing of Highlands. It's a 12-by-12-inch coffee-table format, with 200 pages of photographs many of which are a full 8 by 10 inches in size, depicting historic details with sharp clarity. Pictured with Angie is her publisher, Ran Shaffner.



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Left: Walk to downtown Highlands from this new log home with lots of charm. Three bedrooms, 3 baths, hand-hewn logs, two-story rock fireplace, Pine floors, professional landscaping, outdoor fire pit. Can have additional privacy or build additional homes on adjoining 3 acres. Offered for \$849,000 with additional land also available.

Right: Former home of Highlands premier contractor Deadeye Potts. Wormy chestnut in living room, some hardwood under carpet. Wonderful pond in backyard with deck overlooking it. Private location, yet very close in. Downstairs basement area could be finished into more bedrooms and living space. Extensively remodeled in recent years. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. Pond, privacy, excellent construction, in-town. Unoccupied and easy to show.

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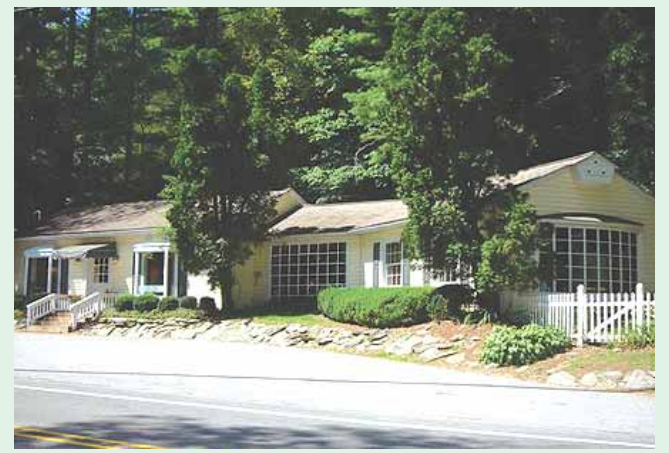
ON A SMALL KNOLL of lush trees, overlooking the 13th green, this spacious 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath home is in move in condition. Huge great room with fireplace, covered porch to enjoy the view, custom kitchen, wonderful master suite, 2nd bedroom and 2 car garage are on the main level. Guest level features 2 bedrooms and large family/rec room that opens out to an inviting screened porch. Furnishings are available at additional cost. Offered at \$1,200,000. MLS #59343



A true rustic 3 bedroom, 3 bath mountain retreat situated on 1.37 Acres; only 2 miles from downtown Highlands on the Atlanta side. This mini-estate comes complete with a one bedroom, one bath guest house, plus 2 ponds and 2 waterfalls! Both homes have been completely remodeled and freshly painted. Come make this your own piece of Appalachian paradise! Offered at \$995,000. MLS# 62984



This is what everybody wants when they come to the mountains, close to town, in the woods, charming and comfortable. 3 bedrooms with fireplace in master bedroom. Offered at \$595,000. MLS #63260



This location has high visibility on Hwy. 64 on the Highlands side of Highlands Falls Country Club. No need to worry about finding a parking place here! There is a tile entryway; oak cabinets; wormy chestnut paneling; a fireplace and granite countertops at the sales desk. The flow of the interior makes many different types of business a possibility. \$445,000 MLS# 62891



**EXCEPTIONAL LOCATION AT HIGHLANDS FALLS COUNTRY CLUB.** 3 bedrooms, 2 baths with garage. Private deck with fantastic view of 18th green, club lake and mountains beyond. Offered at \$710,000. MLS# 63198



Near Glenn Falls- This 3 bedroom, 3 bath home in Ponderosa is ready for its new owners. Enjoy the wonderful outdoor decking and covered screen porch in this quiet neighborhood just minutes from Main Street, Highlands. Offered at \$495,000. MLS #62740



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## • BUSINESS NEWS •

### J-MCA Announces New Panthertown Coordinator

The Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the natural resources and environment in Jackson and Macon counties, is pleased to announce the hiring of Nina Elliott as the new Panthertown Coordinator.

Panthertown is situated on the border of both Jackson and Transylvania counties. This beautiful 6,300 acre valley encompasses the headwaters of the Tuckasegee River (Panthertown and Greenland creeks) is designated as a backcountry area within the Nantahala National Forest.

"Panthertown is a special place for me, as well as many other people. I am thrilled to be able to work with other individuals and organizations who are also passionate about preserving and protecting Panthertown," says Ms. Elliott. "It is a unique and beautiful natural resource enjoyed by hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, climbers, birdwatchers, scout groups, etc. Panthertown Valley should be valued not just for its recreational opportunities, but also as a fragile biologically diverse ecosystem."

David M. Bates, executive director of The Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance, recognized the need to form the "Friends of Panthertown" in partnership with the US Forest Service to address the unmet needs of Panthertown by providing a base of volunteers and funding. The initial response from the community was so successful that



Nina Elliott with rangers at the Nantahala Ranger District Office in Franklin.

Mr. Bates realized that additional J-MCA staff would be needed to facilitate the "Friends of Panthertown" group.

Ms. Elliott's responsibilities will include further development of the "Friends of Panthertown" group, through fundraising and organizing activities intended to benefit Panthertown Valley, and acting as a liaison between the United States Forest Service (USFS). She met with Head Ranger Mike Wilkins, and Rangers Jeff Owenby and Richard McClure at the Nantahala Ranger District Office in Franklin on September 12, 2007 to discuss issues regarding Panthertown. "Currently, the USFS is in the process of finalizing a memorandum of agreement outlining the specific role of "Friends of Panthertown" in partnership with US

Forest Service.

The US Forest Service recommends that anyone wishing to get involved do so through the "Friends of Panthertown," an affiliate of J-MCA. The goal of "Friends of Panthertown" is to assist the USFS in its mission to preserve and protect Panthertown Valley by raising funds and public awareness, and by providing volunteers for needed projects. Joining the "Friends of Panthertown" is a chance to make a difference and contribute to the long-term preservation of this very special place.

For more information, contact Nina Elliott, Panthertown Coordinator at the Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance at 828-526-9938 (ext.258) or send emails to J-MCA@dnet.net

## Mountain Findings donates over \$73,000 to community organizations – To date donations surpass \$1 million



Volunteers Bill & Imogene Wright present a \$2,000 check to Patrick Brannon from the Highlands Nature Center.

Volunteers from Mountain Findings have been busy this summer, delivering checks totaling \$73,000 to twenty community organizations. Each year at the annual meeting, volunteers determine how funds will be distributed. They examine how the organization benefits our community, how funds have been utilized or will be utilized, and any upcoming specific needs identified by the organization.

Mountain Findings has served the Highlands Community since 1969. This year marks a special point in their 38 year history –



Volunteers Dave & Mary Lou Fouser present a \$5,000 check to Walter Wingfield of the Highlands Historical Society.

total donations passed the \$1,000,000 mark! Located on Spruce Street, Mountain Findings is, for many, the first place to look for a needed household item.

A huge thank you goes to every person who donates household items and also to each person who shops at Mountain Findings.



See us at the  
Highlands Playhouse Antique Show  
Thursday, Sept. 27 through Sunday, Sept. 30  
at the Sapphire Valley Community Center

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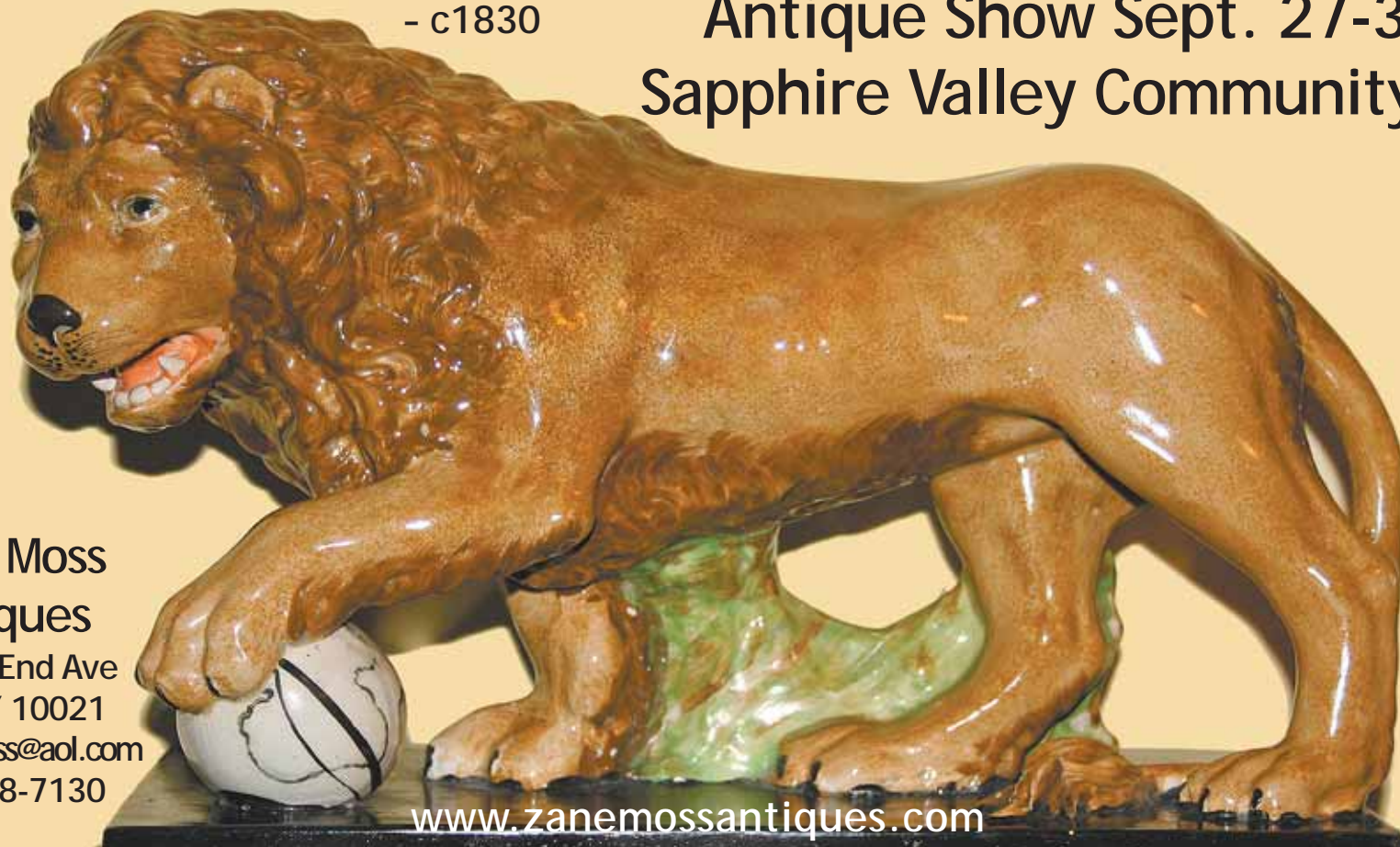
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through Sunday,  
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One of a pair of large Staffordshire  
Lions with his paw holding the world.  
- c1830

**A feature at the Highlands Playhouse  
Antique Show Sept. 27-30 at the  
Sapphire Valley Community Center**



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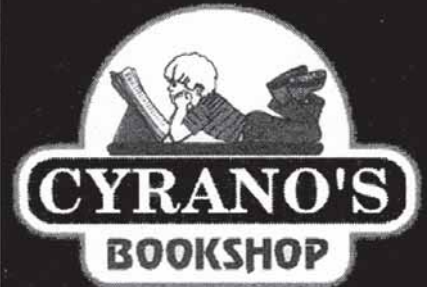
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**Highlands Playhouse**  
**SUMMER SEASON**  
**2007**

**Broadway Melodies**  
**at Highlands Playhouse**  
**Oct. 4-7**  
**&**  
**Oct. 11-14**

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**Upcoming Book Signings**

**September 29**  
 Angie Jenkins  
 "Highlands, N.C....The Early Years"  
 6-8 p.m.

**October 5**  
 Karen Weihs  
 "Out of My Mind"  
 5-7 p.m.

**October 13**  
 Sandra Brown  
 "Play Dirty"  
 noon-3 p.m.

Anne Sharpsteen with Vivian Cash  
 "I Walk the Line"

**Ruby Cinemas**

Hwy. 441, Franklin  
 524-2076

Sept. 28 - Oct. 4

**THE GAME PLAN**  
 rated PG  
 Mon - Fri: (4:05), 7:05, 9:05  
 Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:05), 7:05, 9:05

**THE KINGDOM**  
 rated R  
 Mon - Fri: (4:20), 7, 9:20  
 Sat & Sun: (2), (4:20), 7, 9:20

**RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION**  
 rated R  
 Mon - Fri: (4:15), 7:15, 9:15  
 Sat & Sun: (2:15), (4:15), 7:15, 9:15

**GOOD LUCK CHUCK**  
 rated R  
 Mon - Fri: 7:10  
 Sat & Sun: (2:10), 7:10

**3:10 TO YUMA**  
 rated R  
 Daily: (4:10), 9:10

**• UPCOMING EVENTS •**

- On-going**
- Live music every night at 7:30 p.m. and during brunch on Sunday at ...on the Verandah restaurant.
  - Nantahala Tennis Association: Meets Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m. -noon for Round Robin at Highlands Recreation Park. All levels of play welcome.
  - Live music at Fressers in Helen's Barn with Cy Timmons Wed-Sat 6 p.m. until.
  - Hal Philips at the piano at Skyline Lodge and Restaurant on Flat Mountain Road Fri. & Sat. at 6 p.m.
  - Live music with Angie Jenkins, Friday and Saturday nights at Old Clayton Inn on Main Street in Clayton.
  - NA open meeting every Saturday at 7:30 p.m. of the ACC Satelite Group at the Graves Community Church, 242 Hwy 107 N. in Cashiers. Call 888-764-0365 or go to the website: www.ncmana.org.
  - Step Aerobics at the Rec Park, 4-5 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays. \$5 per class.
  - Beginners Clogging class Tuesday, 6-7 p.m. at the Sapphire Valley Community Center. Come have lots of fun and exercise. Call 743-7663.
  - At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.
  - "The Circle of Life" support group continues at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital at the Jane Woodward room 201. It is designed for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. The group meets 10 a.m. until noon. For more information, call Barbara Buchanan at 526-1402 or Florence Flanagan at 743-2567.
- First Mondays**
- Participate in your hospital by joining the Auxiliary of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Auxiliary meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at the hospital.
- Every Monday**
- Recreational Bridge 1 p.m. at the Rec Park. \$3 per person.
- Every Tuesday**
- Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Center.
  - Weight Watchers meets at the Highlands Civic Center. Weigh-in is at 5:30. The meeting starts at 6 p.m.
  - Open Studio Night Figure Drawing: Informal instruction available for beginners. Bring your sketch pad or paint box for a leisurely session of figure drawing/painting. Cost is \$12, \$10 for "Friends" of the Gallery.
- Every Wednesday**
- "The Bible Tells Me So" at 6:15 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church. The assigned readings for each week are taken from the book, "The Bible Tells Me So: uses and abuses of Holy Scripture" by Jim Hill and Rand Cheadle. This book is currently out-of-print so copies of each reading assignment will be handed out each week. The study will meet in the Fellowship Hall — beginning promptly at 6:15 and will last approximately one hour.
  - Highlands MountainTop Rotary Club meets at the Highlands Conference Center at 7:30 a.m.

**Male Chorus with Angie Jenkins tonight, Thursday, Sept. 27 at PAC**



The Performing Arts Center's Male Chorus will appear in concert at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street at 8 p.m. Solos by Stell Huie, seen above with accompanist Angie Jenkins, will be featured along with rousing renditions by the greatly enlarged Male Chorus. The program has been planned by director, Orville Wike, and is entitled, "American Music: Made in America." Tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased at the door. Tickets can be reserved by calling 526-9047. A reception follows the performance.

- Every Third Wednesday**
- Study sessions at the Universal Unitarian Fellowship Hall in Franklin. A \$5 soup-supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9964.
- Every Thursday**
- At Main Street Inn, Lisa Price piano and vocals in the wine bar 6-9 p.m.
  - Al-Anon Meetings, noon in the First Presbyterian Church basement at Fifth & Main Street.
  - Women's Bible Study at 9:30 am - 11:45 am at Community Bible Church. Beth Moore's *Believing God*. All women are invited.
- Every Saturday**
- Live music at Cyprus Restaurant in the Dillard Village Shopping Center at 9:30 p.m. \$10 cover.
  - Children's classes ongoing at Bascom-Louise Gallery - cost is \$5 per student.
- Every Friday**
- The Girls' Clubhouse meets in the school

## • UPCOMING EVENTS •

cafeteria 3-4:30 p.m. All 6-8 grade girls are welcome. Come have fun while serving others. For more information, call Kim Lewicki 526-0782.

### Through Thursday, Oct. 18

- 2007 Macon County Basketball registration. There are four age divisions this year: 6-7 year olds, 8-9 year olds, 10-12 year olds, and 13-16 year olds. Fees this year are as follows: \$35 for the first child, \$30 for the second child, \$25 for the third, and so forth. Applications can be picked up and dropped off at the Highlands Recreation Department. For further information contact Rebecca R. Shuler at 828-526-8425.

### Thurs.-Sun., Sept. 27-30

- The Highlands Playhouse Antique Show is on Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the Sapphire Valley Community Center on Sunday, the hours are 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the box office. Call 828-526-2695.

### Thursday, Sept. 27

- The Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association announces its annual meeting of the membership at the Highlands Civic Center on Thursday from 6-7 p.m. There will be a brief presentation on Macon County's new floodplain ordinance. Free and open to the public.

- Highlands Rotary Bingo at the Highlands Community Center from 6:30 to 8:30. It is open to people of all ages. Cost is \$1 per card per game. Half of all revenues are awarded as prizes and the other half support community charities.

- The Performing Arts Center's Male Chorus will appear in concert at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street at 8 p.m. Solos by Stell Huie, seen above with accompanist Angie Jenkins, will be featured along with rousing renditions by the greatly enlarged Male Chorus. The program has been planned by director, Orville Wike, and is entitled, "American Music: Made in America." Tickets are \$10 at the door. Call 526-9047. A reception follows the performance.


- Plateau Fly Fishing Club meets at 7 p.m. at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Library. Dr. Bill Chiles will discuss unguided wilderness fly fishing in Alaska. Bill Chiles has fished the Alaskan wilderness on 14 occasions and will discuss fishing for large Alaskan trout while fending off grizzly bears. A slide show will highlight his adventures both on and off the water. Bill has written extensively for national fly fishing magazines and is an authority on fishing local mountain small streams. Following the presentation, the raffle will include a winner of the Orvis waders and boots. Call 743-2078 for information.

### Friday & Saturday, Sept. 28 & 29

- A new class at Bascom-Louise Gallery, "The Pastel Experience" with Robin Miltner, covers various aspects of using pastels, including hands-on experimenting with a variety of pastels and papers from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost for two days is \$225 (\$180 for art center members). For one day only, the cost is \$135 (\$110 for art center members). For more information, call Bascom-Louise Gallery at (828) 526-4949, ext. 4.

### Friday, Sept. 28

## Scaly Mountain Turkey Shoot set for Sept. 29 & Oct. 5



**From left: Blue Miller, Marvin Huskey and Squirt Carpenter are pictured at last year's Scaly Mountain Turkey Shoot. The 2007 contests will be held Sept. 29 and Oct. 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Volunteer Fire Station property on Hale Ridge Road in Scaly Mountain. For details call 787-1860.**

The Second Annual Scaly Mountain Turkey Shoot is set for two Saturdays – Sept. 29 and Oct. 6 — at the site of the new Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire Station on Hale Ridge Road, just off of NC Highway 106. There is no admission for these full days of old-fashioned Fall fun that will benefit the Scaly Mountain Community Association LLC which is overseeing the ongoing restoration of the Historic Scaly School House on Buck Knob Road. For additional information call Huskey at 787-1860.

The former school was dedicated in 1901 and was used by local students until the mid 1950's. It then served briefly as a church and continues to be used as a community center by the entire community for a wide variety of activities.

Keith Billingsley and Marvin Huskey are again co-chairmen of the family-oriented event.

"There just aren't many opportunities to see a turkey shoot anymore. It was a big hit last year, bringing people together for some fellowship and friendly competition," said Billingsley.

Marksmen, 16 or older, will compete in groups of 10 with the winners being

advanced to the best-overall competition. Group winners get prizes and the top contender wins a Savage 30/06 rifle with a scope valued at \$500.

No special alterations to guns will be allowed and barrels cannot exceed 32 inches.

Factory inserts will be allowed if a 20 gauge shell will go into the 12 gauge barrel up to the brass.

Guns will be provided for shooters who need them. Shots are \$5 each and shells will be furnished.

Food and drinks will be available and children are invited to participate in the free Turkey Trot Coloring Contest where cash prizes will be awarded.

"Businesses in the community again have been most supportive," said Huskey. To date the "Boss Turkey" sponsor is Cabe Realty in Scaly Mountain.

Grand Turkey sponsors are Huskey Properties Inc., and Sam's Grading Inc. Great Gobbler sponsors are Middlecreek Barn Antiques, Scaly Mountain General Store and Greg's Tire and Service Center. For additional information call Huskey at 787-1860.

- Landscape architect, Mary Palmer Dargan, presents a special lecture at the third annual Highlands Playhouse Antique Show at the Sapphire Valley Country Club at 10 a.m. Ticket price of \$65 includes a luncheon at the club and admission to the three-day antique show held at the Sapphire Valley Community Center. Dargan

reveals seven points that can help achieve order, tranquility, and formality, in even the most unkempt terrain. Dargan showcases landscape design as a visual art and provides examples in her new book, *Timeless Landscape Design: The Four-Part Master Plan*. A book signing will follow the lecture. She will also sign copies of her book.

Reservations are requested and tickets are available at The Highlands Playhouse Box Office or by calling 828-526-2695; at Bryant Art Glass new location at 216 S 4<sup>th</sup> Street or by calling 828-526-4095; at The Catbird Seat in Cashiers or by calling 828-743-6565; at Ryan & Co. in Cashiers or by calling 828-743-3612.

- Eco-Tour Adventure on Satulah Mountain sponsored by the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust. Geocaching is an entertaining sport that brings participants to discover new and exciting places as well as visit old favorites. The hike will be led by HCLT's resident Botanist/Executive Director, Dr. Gary Wein. Bringing your own GPS would be great but is not necessary. The tour will run from 10-2 p.m. Good hiking shoes and long pants are suggested for this moderate hike. A picnic lunch on the summit will be included. The event is free to HCLT members and just \$25 for non-members. Call HCLT at 526.1111 for details and to sign-up. Space is limited so sign-up today.

- At the Highlands Historical Museum, Angie Jenkins, will autograph copies of her new book "Highlands, North Carolina...The Early Years," from 1-3 p.m.

### Saturday, Sept. 29

- Satulah Club Yard Sale at First Citizen's Bank, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Also, raffle of quilt hanging in Macon Bank.

- At Cyrano's Bookshop, Angie Jenkins will be autographing copies of her new book "Highlands, North Carolina...The Early Years" from 6-8 p.m.

- At High Country Cafe, a "country supper with live music" 5-9 p.m. \$12.95 inclusive.

- Interior Designer, Charles Faudree presents a special lecture at the third annual Highlands Playhouse Antique Show at the Sapphire Valley Country Club at 10 a.m. Ticket price of \$65 includes a luncheon at the club and admission to the three-day antique show held at the Sapphire Valley Community Center. A book signing will follow the presentation. Reservations are requested and tickets are available at The Highlands Playhouse Box Office or by calling 828-526-2695; at Bryant Art Glass new location at 216 S 4<sup>th</sup> Street or by calling 828-526-4095; at The Catbird Seat in Cashiers or by calling 828-743-6565; at Ryan & Co. in Cashiers or by calling 828-743-3612.

- Marine Corps Motorcycle Toy Ride. Toys for Tots. First leg: Cornelia, GA to Toccoa, GA; Second Leg: Toccoa to Clayton, GA; Third Leg: Warwoman Road in Clayton to Highlands, N.C.; Fourth Leg: Highlands to Cashiers; Fifth Leg: Cashiers to Sylva; Sixth Leg: Sylva to Cherokee; Seventh Leg: Cherokee to Bryson City; Eighth Leg: Bryson City to Franklin. Join for the whole leg – 160 miles – or just one or two legs. For more information call 828-369-9244 or go to [ichughes@dnet.net](mailto:ichughes@dnet.net).

- Benefit to help Edgar and Geraldine Owens with medical bills. A Spaghetti Supper with live music, haircuts until dark with donations accepted by Heather and Lacy from Creative Concepts. Live auction, raffles, cake walk. 5 p.m. at the Satolah Fire Dept.

• See EVENTS page 36

## • UPCOMING EVENTS •

### It's 'Broadway Melodies' instead of 'Forever Plaid' at Highlands Playhouse Oct. 4-7 & Oct. 11-14

*Broadway Melodies* is a foot tapping, sing-a-long musical tribute to the songs and women of Broadway who capture our hearts.

Just a few of the wonderful songs you will hear are "Some People" Gypsy, "I Can't Say No" Oklahoma, "The Wiz and I" Wicked, and "Sun In the Morning" Annie Get Your Gun, along with others from *Les Miserables*, *Company*, *Cabaret*, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, and *Follies*.

We know you will enjoy this fun loving and entertaining evening with four talented female singers and musicians to

delight your ears and eyes.

Please join us at Highlands Playhouse on October 4<sup>th</sup> through the 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup> to enjoy *Broadway Melodies*.

To reserve tickets in advance please call the box office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday at 526.2695.

Tickets are also available one hour in advance at the box office the day of the show. Showtimes are 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and a Sunday Matinee at 2 p.m.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 6.5-mile hike over Black Rock Mtn. to Warden Falls in Panthertown Valley, with an elevation change of 600 feet. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Highlands Bank of America or the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9:50. Drive 35 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader, Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

- The Second Annual Scaly Mountain Turkey Shoot at the site of the new Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire Station on Hale Ridge Road, just off of NC Highway 106. There is no admission for these full days of old-fashioned Fall fun that will benefit the Scaly Mountain Community Association LLC which is overseeing the ongoing restoration of the Historic Scaly School House on Buck Knob Road. For additional information call Huskey at 787-1860.

#### Sunday, Sept. 30

- Members of the Bascom-Louise Gallery's "Director's Circle" will be treated to a lavish New Orleans-themed Jazz Brunch at the home of Bob and Cathy Fisher. The Director's Circle is a premier level of membership in the gallery comprising people who donate more than \$1,000 to help the nonprofit's operating fund. Director's Circle members are privy to a series of special events throughout the year. This weekend's brunch is the last Director's Circle event of the season. To become a member of the Director's Circle and attend the Jazz Brunch on Sunday, call the business office at 526-0207.

#### Thurs.-Sunday, Oct. 4-7

- Broadway Melodies is a foot tapping, sing-a-long musical tribute to the songs and women of Broadway who capture our hearts. Just a few of the wonderful songs you will hear are "Some People" Gypsy, "I Can't Say No" Oklahoma, "The Wiz and I" Wicked, and "Sun In the Morning" Annie Get Your Gun, along with others from *Les Miserables*, *Company*, *Cabaret*, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, and *Follies*. To reserve tickets in advance please call the box office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through

Saturday at 526-2695. Showtime's are 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and a Sunday Matinee at 2 p.m.

#### Tuesday, Oct. 2

- The film "A Good Year" showing at PAC as part of its film festival at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments are at 7 p.m. The movie is free but donations are accepted.

#### Thursday, Oct. 4

- Public forum on Macon County School System Building Plan 7-8 p.m., at East Franklin Elementary School gym. Driving questions and aims to be addressed: What are our *Priorities* within the school system Facilities Plan? Why did we establish these *Priorities*? How will the *Plan* be carried out? Provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to provide the district leadership and Board of Education with feedback regarding the Plan.

#### Friday, Oct. 5

- Collect Spirits Auction at Fine Art Center.

#### Saturday, Oct. 6

- 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party for Opal Lee Allsep Hedden, wife of the late Wilbur R. Hedden, Jr., 3 p.m. in the Highlands United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. All friends and family are invited to join in the celebration.

- Hurricane Creek Fall Fling Dance at the Instant Theatre Company at 8 p.m. call 828 342-9197 starting Oct. 1.

- The Second Annual Scaly Mountain Turkey Shoot at the site of the new Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire Station on Hale Ridge Road, just off of NC Highway 106. There is no admission for these full days of old-fashioned Fall fun that will benefit the Scaly Mountain Community Association LLC which is overseeing the ongoing restoration of the Historic Scaly School House on Buck Knob Road. For additional information call Huskey at 787-1860.

- Harvest Bazaar at the Lodge in Sky Valley, GA, sponsored by the Women of the Chapel Sky Valley. There will be antiques, kitchen items, home-baked goods, gifts for children and pets, white elephant collectibles, holiday decorations and more.

#### Sunday, Oct. 7

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike to the viewpoint on Pickens Nose with great views into Georgia and the valley of the Little Tennessee River. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2:00 p.m. Drive 40 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

#### Monday, Oct. 8

- The Peggy Crosby Center Golf Classic hosted by the Old Edwards Inn & Spa 9 a.m. at the MountainTop Golf and Lake Club in Cashiers. Cost is \$250 per person, or \$1,000 per team. Call 526-9938, ext. 410 to sign up.

- Bolivian Auction and dinner at Highlands Country Club to benefit the Bolivian Mission. Admission: \$125.

For information about the fundraisers, please call 526-3605.

#### Tuesday, Oct. 9

- Public forums on Macon County School System Building Plan 7-8 p.m., at Franklin High School gym. Driving questions and aims to be addressed: What are our *Priorities* within the school system Facilities Plan? Why did we establish these *Priorities*? How will the *Plan* be carried out? Provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to provide the district leadership and Board of Education with feedback regarding the Plan.

#### Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 11-13

- "Pattern, Rhythm, Beat, Measure, and Breath in Nature, Art, and Self..." The title is a mouthful, but it's also a bountiful platterful of ideas, techniques, exercises and processes that will make your artwork sparkle and zing. Laurence Holden, master of mixed media (who did the painting above), will offer this class at the Bascom-Louise Gallery on Oct. 11-13, from 10

a.m. to 5 p.m. "Pattern, rhythm, beat, measure and breath are the most essential elements in both art and life," said Donna Rhodes, the gallery's education director. "They are the alchemical elements that make us all kith and kin on this blue green planet. Join Laurence on a studio exploration of just how these elements can enliven our art and our vision of the world around us and within us." All levels of expertise are welcome. The cost is \$200 (\$165 for members of the gallery). Call (828) 526-4949, 4#, for more information.

#### Thurs.-Sunday, Oct. 11-14

- Broadway Melodies is a foot tapping, sing-a-long musical tribute to the songs and women of Broadway who capture our hearts. Just a few of the wonderful songs you will hear are "Some People" Gypsy, "I Can't Say No" Oklahoma, "The Wiz and I" Wicked, and "Sun In the Morning" Annie Get Your Gun, along with others from *Les Miserables*, *Company*, *Cabaret*, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, and *Follies*. To reserve tickets in advance please call the box office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday at 828-526-2695. Tickets are also available one hour in advance at the box office the day of the show. Showtime's are 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and a Sunday Matinee at 2 p.m.

#### Thursday, Oct. 11

- Public forums on Macon County School System Building Plan 7-8 p.m., at Iotla Elementary School gym. Driving questions and aims to be addressed: What are our *Priorities* within the school system Facilities Plan? Why did we establish these *Priorities*? How will the *Plan* be carried out? Provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to provide the district leadership and Board of Education with feedback regarding the plan.

#### Friday-Sunday, Oct. 12-14

- At Acorn's, Mary Louise/Bijoux de Mer Trunk Show. Mary Louise's exclusive line of 18k

### 'Hurricane Creek' at ITC on Oct. 6



The weather is getting cooler and the leaves are starting their changes. The Instant Theatre Company is bringing in the Fall with Hurricane Creek on Saturday, October 6, for a Fall Dance. The festivities will be heard and experienced at the Studio on Main, Main Street, Oak Square in Highlands starting at 8PM. 828-342-9197 for information.

## • UPCOMING EVENTS •

### JMCA Fall Forest Fest is Oct. 13



Mark your calendar for Saturday, Oct. 13. Gather a couple of friends and call J-MCA at 828-526-9938 ext. 320 to reserve your table for a night of great food, fun, door prizes, raffles and entertainment at the Fall Forest Fest at the beautiful Highlands Falls Country Club. Time is running out for this easy and fun way to help J-MCA and our natural heritage.

Alone, not a whole lot, together as a common voice, we can make a difference. Some factors we have absolutely no control over. Growth and change is inevitable. But responsible choices start at home. So ask yourself, why do I live here? What do I love about this beautiful area? What can I do to help protect our mountains, water and air for future generations and myself? Become educated, get involved. This is where most people say, "I'm too busy already, I'm stretched to my limit, I can't take on one more project." Well that's not actually a problem because this is where the Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance (J-MCA) offers a solution.

The Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance is your local conservation voice on environmental issues concerning our beautiful mountain area on the Highlands-Cashiers plateau. Since its inception in 2000, J-MCA has been an advocate for clean air, clean water, and healthy forests for this fragile eco-system in which we live.

For years J-MCA has partnered with the Forest Service and Clemson University in the fight to save our hemlocks from the destruction of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. On other fronts, the organization has taken great strides to bring awareness and environmental education to everyone from land development issues to recycling. Throughout the year JMCA offers forums, workshops and inspirational concerts for the general public as well as professionals and schools. They have eyes and ears on the state and local policy makers holding them accountable for poor environmental choices that are not advantageous to us and pushing for the changes that are good for the future of this beautiful area.

So take this easy, but important step to help J-MCA and our precious environment. Attending the Fall Forest Fest Dinner Dance will be a fun way to show your support.

To maintain and improve our economy and wonderful life-style, we should all have the JMCA vision: A plateau with a high-quality natural environment- with clean streams and air and abundant forest and wildlife, and on which public and private decisions are grounded in a caring concern for the environment. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

gold jewelry has a distinctively feminine flair. Bijoux de Mer or Jewels of the Sea, specializes in pearls and precious stones.

#### Saturday, Oct. 13

• Yard Sale at Highlands School to benefit the Junior-Senior Prom.

• At Main Street Inn and Cyrano's Bookshop, Dinner and Walking Ghost Tour, with Stephanie Burt Williams author of "Haunted Hills." \$45 per person includes four-course gourmet dinner. Cash bar at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Res-

ervations required. Call 828-5626-2590 or 800-213-9142.

• 25th Annual Highlands Arts & Crafts Show, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center, Highway 64 East, Highlands, NC Free admission and parking. More than 100 vendors - four raffle drawings with prizes donated by popular artists - sponsored by the Highlands Woman's Club and the Highlands Recreation Department.

• At Cyrano's Bookshop, author Sandra Brown signing "Play Dirty" 1-3 p.m.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6-mile hike to the potholes on the upper Chattooga River. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 10:00 or call leader for an alternate meeting place on Whiteside Cove road if coming from Cashiers. Bring water, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Drive 15 miles round trip. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Virginia Talbot, 526-4904, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

• At Main Street Inn and Cyrano's Bookshop, Dinner and Walking Ghost Tour, with Stephanie Burt Williams author of "Haunted Hills." \$45 per person includes four-course gourmet dinner. Cash bar at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Reservations required. Call 828-5626-2590 or 900-213-9142.

• Mark your calendar for the Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance Fall Forest Fest. Gather a couple of friends and call J-MCA at 828-526-9938 ext. 320 to reserve your table for a night of great food, fun, door prizes, raffles and entertainment at the beautiful Highlands Falls Country Club.

#### Tuesday-Saturday, Oct. 16-20

• At Bascom-Louise Gallery, "Artist's Photo Reference," taught by internationally known color pencil painter Gary Greene, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Class begins with a photographic field trip, followed by a return to the classroom. All levels of expertise are welcome. The cost is \$350 (\$315 for art center members). For more information, call Bascom-Louise Gallery at (828) 526-4949, ext. 4

#### Tuesday, Oct. 16

• Public forums on Macon County School System Building Plan 7-8 p.m., at Macon Middle School media center. Driving questions and aims to be addressed: What are our *Priorities* within the school system Facilities Plan? Why did we establish these *Priorities*? How will the *Plan* be carried out? Provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to provide the district leadership and Board of Education with feedback regarding the Plan.

#### Thursday-Sunday, Oct. 18-21

• Highlands Community Players production "The Raindrop Waltz," at PAC. 8 p.m. or 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Call 526-8084 for tickets.

#### Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 18-20

• The Instant Theatre Company's Comedy Festival featuring funny man Al Ernst and other national stand-up comedians with music by Benny Skyn. Call 828 342-9197 for more info beginning Oct. 1.

#### Thursday, Oct. 18

• Steele/Shooting Star Vineyards Wine dinner at OEI's The Farm. Each dinner is \$169 per person, inclusive of tax and gratuity. Call 828-787-2604.

• Public forms on Macon County School System Building Plan 7-8 p.m., at Nantahala School gym. An opportunity for all stakeholders to provide the district leadership and Board of Education with feedback regarding the Plan.

#### Friday & Saturday, Oct. 20-21

• Art League of Highlands "Fall Colors Fine Art Show" at the Civic Center Recreation Park in Highlands, NC, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fine original art, jewelry, photography and much more by over 40 artists. Art activities for kids both days in

the Children's Art Room. Free admission. Door prizes. For information call Karen Taylor at 828-526-2177 or Dottie Bruce at 828-743-7673.

#### Saturday, Oct. 20

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3.5 moderate hike from the upper Whitewater Falls to the Bad Creek Reservoir parking area. There will be some scrambling over roots and rocks, but great views of the falls and in the gorge below. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10:00 a.m. Drive 40 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 4.5 mile hike from Wayah Crest to Sawmill Gap on the Appalachian and Bartram trails with an elevation gain of 1,000 feet and great views. Drive 25 miles with a short car shuttle. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 9:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Bill Van Horn, 369-1983, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

#### Sunday, Oct. 21:

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 2-mile hike on a pretty loop trail around Lake Chatuge and up a small mountain in Jack Rabbit Mt. State Park in Georgia. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2:00 p.m. Drive 55 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

#### Tuesday, Oct. 23

• Public forms on Macon County School System Building Plan 7-8 p.m., at South Macon Elementary School gym. Driving questions and aims to be addressed: What are our *Priorities* within the school system Facilities Plan? Why did we establish these *Priorities*? How will the *Plan* be carried out? Provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to provide the district leadership and Board of Education with feedback regarding the plan.

#### Thursday & Friday, Oct. 25-26

• The Instant Theatre Company's Comedy Festival featuring funny man Al Ernst and other national stand-up comedians with music by Benny Skyn. call 828 342-9197 for tickets beginning Oct 1.

#### Friday-Sunday, Oct. 26-28

• Highlands Community Players production "The Raindrop Waltz," at PAC. 8 p.m. or 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Call 526-8084 for tickets.

#### Saturday, Oct. 27

• Highlands School Fun Run at 10 a.m.  
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 3-mile hike from Albert Mt. to Betty Creek. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 8:00 a.m. Drive 35 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, a hiking stick, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader George Gover, 349-1509, for information. No pets please.

### ... CHARTER continued from page 1

from Macon County and money away from Macon County."

Edwards said statewide there is effort afoot to do away with charter schools instead of starting up new ones in the state.

But Superintendent Brigman said the cap doesn't apply for alternative high schools if the prospect is backed and supported by the local school district. "SIATech would need

district approval to keep the door open," he said.

Board member Susie McCoy said now was not the time to address such an option for Macon County.

"We have a great school district and have several programs in place and work hard to keep students in school. I think we should give these new options a chance before we consider another avenue," she said.

To keep students engaged, Macon County Schools has

dual enrollment courses with Southwestern Community College, web-based classes, Union Academy and the Early College High School.

According to its website, the School for Integrated Academics and Technologies (SIATech), a public charter high school has campuses on 14 Job Corps centers in Arizona, California, Florida and New Mexico and serves more than 3,200 students, re-engages disconnected students through an innovative curriculum that integrates technology with academics and provides the opportunity to earn a high school diploma.

Macon County's Job Corps center - LBJ Job Corps, not associated with SIATech - was commended Thursday, Sept. 13 by Congressman Heath Shuler for ranking fifth overall out of the nation's 122 Job Corps centers.

Lee Naiman, LBJ's business community liaison, said the center ranked first in the nation for education and tenth in the nation for vocation. "The Job Corps centers are also grouped into regions and in the Southeast region which includes 19 centers in Mississippi, Alabama, Kentucky, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia and Florida, we ranked first," he said.

At LBJ, students who dropped out of high school can earn their GED through Southwestern Community College while learning a trade.

Following Monday's board of education meeting, Brigman verified that the "employee from SIATech" he referred to in his statement is Monica Bomengen.

Bomengen, who served as Highlands School principal for the 2004-2005 school year and through March 2006, is now employed by SIATech. According to SIATech's website, she is the director of Education Services, Region 3 and is primarily responsible for overseeing educational services and support on the East Coast, developing new business, reorganizing and reconstituting the Atlanta site, and supervising the East Coast site leaders.

Last April, Brigman said he received a letter from Bomengen. "She requested a meeting with me to discuss her quest for opening a high school charter school in our district," he said, "Specifically, her request for us turning over Union Academy to her organization. I respectfully declined this invitation through formal letter."

Union Academy is Macon County's alternative school for both middle and high school students.

At the Monday, Sept. 17 meeting between the MC Board of Education and the MC Commission, Brigman discussed the evolution of Union Academy, which works with at-risk students to keep them from becoming disengaged and potentially dropping out of school.

New this year, students who are assigned to in-school or out-of-school suspension are being sent to Union Academy to continue their studies so they don't fall behind, said Brigman. In the past, students who were suspended got zeros for all classwork missed, which could start them on a downward spiral.

"Union Academy currently serves middle and high school students in Macon County. Under the leadership of Mr. Kris Reis, the staff at Union has developed an effective approach to meeting the needs of all students served. At Union, technology is utilized daily to assist students with remediation, access to distance learning opportunities, and project-based instruction. Union Academy has already proven to be a cornerstone for promoting student success and to meet the requirements of federal and state accountability models," said Brigman. "Macon County is very fortunate to have alternatives for our students at the secondary level and a quality program supported by local and state funding. In partnership with Meridian, Southwestern Community College and the business community, we will continue to collectively identify areas for program expansion at Union School and continued student success."

• See CHARTER page 43

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### HELP WANTED

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES**  
at Highlands United Methodist Church. Responsibilities include overseeing music for worship services, directing the adult choir in Wednesday night rehearsals and Sunday services, supervising handbell choirs, and developing children's and youth music programs. Baccalaureate degree in music and/or commensurate experience in choral conducting required, as well as strong interpersonal skills and the ability to work closely with staff members and volunteers. Submit resumes to [hmc@dnet.net](mailto:hmc@dnet.net). Or PO Box 1959, Highlands, NC 28741.

**DENTAL ASSISTANT POSITION** – with the Macon County Public Health Center. Salary starting at \$21,288 annual, plus benefits. Please apply to the NC Employment Security Commission. Application Deadline: September 19, 2007.

**HIGHLANDS FALLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MANAGER** – Position involves overseeing office administrative activities, operation and maintenance of water and sewer utilities systems, roads, landscaping, security, and new and renovation home construction. Submit resume and three references to [hfcsearch@yahoo.com](mailto:hfcsearch@yahoo.com) or by mail to HFCA Search Committee, PO Box 128, Highlands NC 28741.

**EVENING SERVER** – Good wages, friendly work environment. Apply in person at Skyline Lodge & Restaurant or call 828 526-2121.

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH** is currently accepting resumes for a full-time office position. Computer skills, people skills and creative abilities are needed. Call for more info 526-4685.

**WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY'S** programs in elementary education, special education, birth-kindergarten, psychology and educational leadership are developing adjunct professor pools for teaching in the region. Master's degree in the discipline area is required, doctorate pre-

ferred. Send vita to Amelia Schlott, 220 Killian, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723. Western Carolina University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** – needed for Fine Art Center/Bascom-Louise Gallery in Highlands. Email resumes to: [jconnor\\_bascomlouise@verizon.net](mailto:jconnor_bascomlouise@verizon.net).

**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT** – needed for Fine Art Center/Bascom-Louise Gallery in Highlands. Email resumes to: [jconnor\\_bascomlouise@verizon.net](mailto:jconnor_bascomlouise@verizon.net).

**CHESTNUT HILL** – Apply in person at 64 Clubhouse Trail or call 828-526-5251 for to apply for cook, waitstaff, courtesy officers, or a medication assistant/resident assistant in a 26-bed assistant living area. Please apply in person at 64 Clubhouse Trail, Highlands, NC, or call for an appointment at (828) 526-5251.

**EARN WHILE YOU LEARN!** Are you interested in a new career? Become a Certified Nursing Assistant for Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. C.N.A. classes will start on Wednesday, November 7, 2007. Students will be paid while in class Mondays through Fridays for 6 hours a day. Upon graduation and successful completion of the exam, students will become a Certified Nursing Assistant and will receive a substantial increase in pay. Excellent benefit package after 30 days. Pre-employment substance screening. If interested in joining a dynamic healthcare team, call Robbin Houston at 828-526-1317, Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301, or apply online through our website at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

**CNA OR CNA II AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER.** Full-time, Part-time, and PRN positions for day and night shifts. Our wage scale is \$11.00 to \$14.40 per hour, and you also receive shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of employment. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

**RN OR LPN NEEDED AT A PHYSICIANS' OFFICE WITH HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL.** Full-time, Monday-Friday position. Requires experience working in a clinic or physicians' office. Cardiology background preferred. Good communication, organizational, and computer skills a must. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

**RN'S AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER.** Full, Part-time and PRN

positions available for 12 hour day and night shifts. Excellent wage scale, with shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

**COOKS AND DIETARY AIDES AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL.** Various shifts and days available. Must be able to work weekends and be able to read and speak English. Salary depends on experience. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

### LOST

**BLACK LONG-HAIRED CAT.** Last seen near Oak and Main streets. Call Ellie at 526-5764.

### WORK WANTED

**LOOKING FOR A HOUSEKEEPER?**  
Call: Manuela at 526-9586 (Highlands) Raquel Dugan at 524-4052 (Franklin) also, Experienced Truck Driver Seeks Full Time Employment: Please call 828-524-4052, or call the International Friendship Center to see how we can help! 828-526-9938 x 290.

### YARD SALES

**SEPT. 28 & SATURDAY, SEPT. 29** – Multi family sale 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., 173 Mirrormont Dr. off Hicks furniture, trays, rugs Info 828-526-9594.

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 29** – at First Citizen's Bank, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Raffle of Victorian Quilt made by Mary Lou Dendy on display at Macon Bank.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6** – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. SVMA 2007 Yard Sale. The Sapphire Valley Yard Sale is being conducted specifically for the benefit of the members of SVMA and its property owners' associations to offer the usual items found at garage sales and a community setting with a large potential attendance. Please pick up applications at the SV Community Center. 743.7663. The event will be held on the SV Athletic Field.

### FOR RENT

**SKY VALLEY RESORT** – 2 bed/2bath with fireplace. Completely furnished.

\$600/month inclusive with utilities, cable, phone and more. Available Oct. 1-June 15. Call 706-746-0756.

**HOUSE FOR SALE WITH RENT TO BUY OPTION** – In town. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 decks. \$975/month. Sales Price: \$259,000. Ownership arrangement negotiable. Call Jimmy at 970-819-3815.

**COMMERCIAL** – Warehouse, 1,000 sq. ft. Cashiers Road. Call 526-4154.

**WAREHOUSE SPACE AVAILABLE FOR RENT.** 1,100 – 1,800 sq. ft. bays with large overhead rolling doors. Rent is \$500-\$600 a month. Located one mile from the crossroads in Cashiers off 107 S. For more information please call Josh Barber 828-743-0077.

### VACATION RENTAL

**HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB** – Sorry, golf and club privileges not available. \$2,495 a week. Call 912-230-7202.

**CUTE 3 BED/2 BATH** Mirror lake home \$1,350-\$1,550 + utilities a month, less than mile from Main Street. Call 770-977-5692

**THE LODGE ON MIRROR LAKE** – Fish or canoe from deck. Available weekly, monthly, 3-day min. Call 828-342-2302.

**ON LAKE SEQUOYAH** – Three master suites with jetted tubs and showers, sleeping nook with private bath, 4 fireplaces, 2 living areas, newly renovated. Private dock with canoe and firepit. Call 828-342-2302.

### REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

**CREEK IS FREE!** – With the purchase of one or both of these wooded parcels, just off Highway 28 in the NE Georgia mountains within 15 minutes of Highlands. 1.09 acres and/or 1.10 acres on a county-maintained road. Serious inquiries only. Please call 864-710-4577 for information.

**LAND** – North Carolina Mountains: At Lake Toxaway Lot and 1/2 Beautifully Landscaped with Stone Work and Plantings Yearly Fees \$350. \$120,000. 863-651-1411

**IN TOWN** – 3 bedroom, 2 bath, stream, large level yard. Easy walk to Main Street. \$450,000, by owner. Call 828-226-6123.

**HOUSE FOR SALE (ISLAMORADA, FLORIDA)** – Two bedroom, one and 1/2 bath conch house for sale at Mile Marker 86, near Founders Park on Oceanside. House sits on a 8,520 square foot lot in a great subdivision with a public boat ramp on the next street over. Founders Park, which is across the street, has a park with a boat ramp, marina, pool, beach, tennis courts, etc. Great deal — owner moving out of state. \$475,000. Call 305-852-4369 for more info.

**OCEAN FRONT** – Beautiful home in

• See CLASSIFIEDS page 40

# • CLASSIFIEDS •

Surf City, N.C. zoned residential/commercial. Walk to pier and town. 7-bed, 4 full baths. Separate apartment. Good rental income. Call 919-340-2280.

**LAKEFRONT ACRE IN SCALY** – \$25,000 OBO. Details. P.O. Box 260789, Pembroke Pines, FL, 33026.

**COMMERCIAL FOR SALE** – Log cabin at crossroads in Cashiers for sale or lease. Call 526-4154.

**COMMERCIAL FOR SALE** – 3 acres. U.S. 64 frontage, cashiers Road. 2 acres, 3 warehouses, good income. Call 526-4154.

**HOUSE FOR SALE** – HFCC 2 story split, 3/2, large lot, lake, golf course, mountain views, membership available but optional. \$795,000. Call 526-4154.

**LAND BY OWNER** – 3/4 acre lot. Close to Toan. Very, very, level building lot. Community water available. \$79,000. Call Ginger at 828-526-4959.

**OCEANFRONT LOT KEY LARGO, FLORIDA** – Cleared, buildable with all services. Last unimproved lot in Silver Shores subdivision. \$599,900. For information and photos call Frank (954) 964-7649 or email ft442@bellsouth.net.

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**IN TOWN** — 3/2.5 log home. The cottages lakeside at Harris Lake. Less than 2 years old. \$329,000. Call Ty at 828-577-9261.

**PINE GROVE TOWNHOUSE CASHIERS**. Two bedrooms two and 1/2 bath. Walking distance to crossroads, restaurants and shopping. Large deck overlooking green lawn \$229,000. Call Manuel de Juan 828-743-1021. Owner broker. Visual tour at [www.pixelitvdeos.com/townhome](http://www.pixelitvdeos.com/townhome)

**LOTS** – Exclusive RiverRock, Tuckasegee Village: 2.1 acre Lot 48, great building site, adjoins horse farm. \$364,900; and THE premier view Lot 34, best view lot development. \$799,900 Call HUTCH (706) 831-0892 owner/agent.

**MOTOR COACH SITE** – Private, luxury motor coach site available for purchase. Downtown Highlands. Corner of Fifth St. and Chestnut St. Gated, restricted. Call 828-526-5333.

**BY BUILDER** – 4/3, new construction. Executive home. 1.5 acres, bordered by 2 creeks and a pond in a new up-scale subdivision less than 5 minutes from downtown Franklin. \$485K. Call 371-3669.

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**FIREWOOD FOR SALE** - Will deliver. For info. call 524-1309 or 421-2905.

**MAHOGANY CHINA CLOSET**, 6-ft plus, mirror back, 4 glass shelves. Must see. Call 787-2307.

**BERNHARDT CHERRY DESK**, mint condition. Paid \$4,000; sell \$1500. Call 404-354-7463.

**CERAMIC KILN**. 230V, 20A, dual control up to 2300°F. Interior 20" high, 18" diameter. Almost new. \$500. 828/787-2177.

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**ARMOIRE & DRESSOR W/ 3 WAY MIRROR**. Light Maple color. Excellent condition. \$600 for both or will sell separately. 526-9107.

**VANITY TOP SINK** – 22"x37" with 4" back splash cream color, \$59. Call 526-4077.

**NEW SHOWER DOOR** – Still in box. 27" wide, gold color. Call 526-4077.

**FARM HOUSE STYLE PINE TOP COUNTRY TABLE** with white-washed legs, 6 chairs with white-washed legs. Best offer over \$700. Call 526-1597.

**CHINA CABINETS** desk, rope-bed, trunk framed artwork, quilts, and more. Call 828-526-3836.

**2003 AIRSTREAM TRAVEL TRAILER** – 30' Classic with rear island queen, walk-thru bath, and dinette. Excellent condition, \$45K. (828) 526-5939.

**ANTIQUE BEAMS, FLOORING AND STRUCTURES:** Hand hewn beams in oak and yellow pine. Beautiful material, large faces, \$3.50-\$4 per board foot. Original, reclaimed white and yellow pine flooring, random wide widths (6-16") \$6/board ft. Also selling entire log and timber frame

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**BISTRO TABLES**, 21" round (black and white), 2 black chairs. (4 sets @ \$125 per set). See Bob at SweetTreats 526-9822.

**DINING ROOM FURNITURE**. Very nice. Rectangular with two leaves 6 chairs, 2 with arms. Maple with upholstered seats. \$326 all inclusive. 864-972-8525 or cell 864-723-4101

**HILTI TE 805 DEMOLITION HAMMER**. New. Case & 4 bits. \$500. 828-526-2700 or 828-421-7886

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**SOLID DARK OAK DINETTE CABINET**. 19"x64"x84". 3 glass windows on top. 3 drawers on bottom. 2 bottom doors with keys. Imported from Belgium. Excellent condition. \$1,500. Call 369-3250.

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**1991 HONDA PRELUDE** – 190K miles. Runs Good. Looks Good. \$800. Call 200-9824.

**2006 SUZUKI DR 200SE MOTORCYCLE** – 29 miles, only, perfect condition, 1-cylinder, 4-stroke, 199cc. \$3,000. Call 828-342-6789 or home at 828-526-5507.

**HANDICAPPED VAN** – Dodge Grand Caravan, wheelchair accessible, automatic ramp, hand controls, 43,900 miles, \$16,000.00 526-9769.

**1966 MUSTANG** – 2-door coupe. \$12,000. Call 828-883-4214.

**1999 CAMARO** – New tires, low mileage, 5-speed, 6-cylinder, excellent condition. Call 828-369-3619.

**2003 DODGE STRATUS** – red exterior, gray interior, 30,000 miles, AM/FM cassette, A.C. PW, PS, PB, clean. \$8,000 OBO 828-526-3257.

**1991 SUBURBAN 3/4 TON**, 130K miles, 20K on Tranny, 350 V8, lift w/wheels & tires, good condition, never off-road, white/blue \$4350. Call 200-0013.

## SERVICES

**HOME CARETAKER** – Live in position wanted. Will repair and remodel your home while you're away this winter. Experienced in home repair and landscaping. References available. Call Jim Martineau at 828-743-2273 or cell: 413-584-

1911.

**CUTTING EDGE TREE SERVICE** - "Let us go out on a Limb for You." We specialize in tree removal, trimming, Lot/View clearing, under brushing and stump grinding. Quality work and Fully insured. For Free Estimate call 524-1309 or 421-2905.

**SPIC AND SPAN CLEANERS** – looking for part-time cleaners to clean banks in Highlands and Cashiers. Call 828-691-6353.

**TREE SERVICE** – From view clearing to the most complicated tree removal, under brushing, stump removal/grinding/brush chipping/hauling and storm cleanup. For good quality, dependable services, fully insured, give us a call at 828-526-2251.

**HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID TREATMENT** – By J&J Lawn and Landscaping services. NC Licensed Applicator, Highlands, NC 828-526-2251.

**J&J LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICES** – complete lawn and landscaping service, spring cleanup, gutter cleaning, under-brushing, tree removal, lot clearing, storm cleanup, rockwork, retaining walls, flowerbeds, firewood. 828-526-2251.

**CLOCK REPAIR & RESTORATION** – Antique or modern. Call to discuss your repair needs. Visit my website at [www.oldclockrepari.com](http://www.oldclockrepari.com) or call Joseph McGahee at 706-754-9631 or email to [mcsaheeclockshop@yahoo.com](mailto:mcsaheeclockshop@yahoo.com) – 9/13

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**NEED YOUR HOME CLEANED?** Call Charlotte at Letson Enterprise for a free estimate. 828-369-9127 or Bill at 828-421-0971.

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**HIGHLANDS SHUTTLE SERVICE** – Atlanta Airport Shuttle. Drive - Away • Auto Delivery. All Out-of-Town Trips Driving Services. Call 526-8078.

**MARK'S SEDAN DRIVING SERVICE** – All airports – Atlanta \$150, Asheville, \$110, scenic tours, parks, special occasions, restaurant trips, auto delivery. Town Car. Call 828-524-0424 or cell (239)-292-3623.

## LEGAL NOTICES

### NOTICE OF THE NOVEMBER 6, 2007 MUNICIPAL ELECTION, COUNTY WIDE BOND REFERENDUM & LEVY OF LAND TRANSFER TAX REFERENDUM

The **Municipal Election, County Wide Bond Referendum and Levy of Land Transfer Tax Referendum** will be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2007. The **Town of Franklin** ballot will have the following items: **Mayor, Alderman, Bond Referendums and Levy of Land Transfer Tax Referendum.** The **Town of Highlands** ballot will have the following items: **Town Commissioners, Mixed and Malt Beverage, Bond Referendums and Levy of Land Transfer Tax Referendum.** Polls will be open from **6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.** The polling places will be located at:

North Franklin - **SCC (this building is located beside the Macon County Courthouse.)**

- South Franklin – The **OLD** Library.
- East Franklin – East Franklin Elementary School. (Behind Hardee's)
- Iotla – Iotla Elementary School.
- Union – Macon County Community Building- located across from the Whistle Stop Mall.
- Millshoal – Holly Springs Community Building.
- Ellijay – Cullasaja Elementary

School.

- Sugarfork – Pine Grove Community Building.
- Highlands – Highlands Civic Center.
- Flats – Scaly Mountain Community Center.
- Smithbridge – Otto Community Building located above Otto Fire Department.
- Cartoogechaye – The **OLD** Cartoogechaye Elementary School. **Located on Hwy 64 West.**
- Burningtown – Burningtown Community Building. Located **behind Burningtown Baptist Church.**
- Cowee – Cowee Elementary School.

Absentee ballots are allowed. Requests for an **absentee ballot must be made in writing** and received in the Macon County Board of Elections office by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 30, 2007. Requests may also be done in person at the Macon County Board of Elections for the Absentee Ballot to be mailed. Absentee Ballots are required to be mailed. Absentee voting begins on Monday September 17, 2007. All voted Absentee ballots must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 5, 2007.

One-Stop Voting will be held in the Board of Elections Office beginning **Thursday, October 18th.** The Board of Elections is located in the Macon County Courthouse, Room 127A which is on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Courthouse. **Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** In addition to regular office hours, the office will be open on **Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>,** and the last day of One-Stop voting will be on **Saturday, November 3, 2007.** For One-Stop voting on **Saturday's** the office hours will be from **8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** **If you do not vote early you will be required to go to your polling place on Election Day.**

All residents of Macon County who are registered to vote with Macon County Board of Elections may vote in this election. All residents who are registered to vote in the Town Election may vote on all issues. County residents may vote on Bond Referendum's. Last day to register to vote is Friday, October 12, 2007. A person may register at the Board of Election Office or may register by mail.

**For additional information contact the Macon County Board of Elections at 828-349-2034.**

Sara Waldroop, Chairman  
Macon County Board of Elections  
10/11

## • REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS •

PIN, ADDRESS, GRANTEE, DATE, SALE, GRANTOR, ASSESSED VALUE

### HIGHLANDS TOWNSHIP

- 0503745, CLEAR CREEK RD LOT 4A LAZY BEND, JENKINS ANGELA LEWIS, 8/31/2007, \$39,500., HARRIS JAMES THOMAS, \$44,000.
- 0548806, STONEY CREEK RD RD, SCT FIFE LLC C/O KENT ANTLEY, 8/14/2007, \$0., SCT HOLDINGS LLC, \$734,400.
- 0549761, 113 BILLY CABIN RD, WACHOVIA BANK N.A. TRUSTEE, 8/29/2007, \$1,200,000., TROPHY PROPERTIES LLC, \$931,170.
- 0549820, EDWARDS CREEK RD OFF 1603, MCCORD MARK LANCE, 9/4/2007, \$0., MCCORD GUYTE P. JR, \$25,180.
- 0549821, EDWARDS CREEK RD OFF 1603, MCCORD MARK LANCE, 9/4/2007, \$0., MCCORD GUYTE P. JR, \$38,340.
- 0517071, LOT 254 CULLASAJA CLUB LOT 254 CULLASAJA CLUB, LEABO J PHILIP, 8/27/2007, \$125,000., WILLIAMSON JOSEPH M, \$147,230.
- 0500218, RD 1600 LOT 14 SEC B WILDCAT RIDGE EST, BALZEBRE ANTHONY F TRUSTEE, 8/28/2007, \$0., BALZEBRE ANTHONY F SR, \$98,480.
- 0500637, 54 BROWNELL RD ON BILLY CABIN RD, EAGER JAMES B, 8/13/2007, \$0., EAGER JAMES B, \$457,650.
- 0518601, 74 EYEBROW RDG LOT 13 BLK F HFCC, LAND S MOUNTAIN HIGH LLC, 8/13/2007, \$0., WEEKES LEON A, \$916,420.
- 0501618, 70 STRAWBERRY LN LOT 9 SEC A FLAT TOP MTN, ARMSTRONG LULA MAE, 8/28/2007, \$0., ARMSTRONG WALTER E & LULA MAE, \$262,420.

- 0501638, 595 BROADVIEW CIR LOT 30 BROADVIEW ACRES, DAMMON EMMETT, 8/31/2007, \$460,000., SCHENCK ANNE M, \$408,040.
- 0503297, 270 AZALEA LN LOT 217 SEC M WILDCAT CLIFFS, RIDDLE MICHAEL, 8/31/2007, \$322,500., MIDDLETON JOSEPH L., \$334,790.
- 0503848, LOT 11 UNIT 2 BUCKBERRY FALL LOT 11 UNIT 2, VIERS RAYMOND L, 8/23/2007, \$260,000., T WALSH INC, \$97,780.
- 0504377, 235 HEDDEN LN LOT 10, STONE JAMES D, 8/13/2007, \$285,000., KELLEY BEVERLY B., \$200,700.
- 0521574, BROADVIEW CIR LOT 29 BROADVIEW ACRES, DAMMON EMMETT G, 8/31/2007, \$460,000., SCHENCK ANNE M, \$160,340.
- 0504537, LOT 7 SEC A FLAT TOP MTN LOT 7, ARMSTRONG LULA MAE, 8/28/2007, \$0., ARMSTRONG WALTER E & LULA MAE, \$117,090.
- 0504998, RD 1600 LOT 11 SEC A WILDCAT RIDGE, BALZEBRE ANTHONY F TRUSTEE, 8/28/2007, \$0., BALZEBRE ANTHONY F SR, \$69,910.
- 0505010, 331 WHITESIDE MOUNTAIN RD LOT 225 SEC N WILDCAT CLIFFS CO CLUB, WARD F KEITH, 8/9/2007, \$687,500., REYNOLDS CHARLES H TRUSTEE, \$1,120,920.
- 0540809, 105 PEACE MOUNTAIN RD, RING CARL D, 8/27/2007, \$2,050,000., JANES MARCIA S, \$1,658,440.
- 0525664, 85 EAGLE RIDGE DR LOT 2, DIAMOND JOSHUA P TRUSTEE, 8/22/2007, \$760,000., KELLY ELEANOR ADDAMS, \$899,940

## ... OUTDOOR continued from page 1

display.”

The Town Board has the last say on the matter.

Next the group discussed a proposed Governmental/Institutional (GI) zoning for the new Town Hall complex.

Since the new Town Hall building planned for the complex bordered by Fourth, Oak and Maple streets will sit in the allowable setback, commissioners asked the Planning Board to adopt a special GI setback standard for the property.

This was done for the Highlands School concerning the height of the new gym which exceeded the town's 35-ft cap on height. An ordinance was written to allow it only on the Highlands School property and only for the new gym.

But instead of recommending that the setbacks be ignored on all sides of the property as requested, the Planning Board ruled unanimously to only allow a setback violation along Fourth Street.

“No building within the GI Governmental/Institutional District may be erected within 25 feet of the right-of-way line of any public or private road, nor within 10 feet of the property line of an adjoining ownership, except on the site of the Town Hall property along Fourth Street...”

Again, the Town Board has the final word.

The subject most discussed at the Planning Board was big boxes and their potential expansion.

To hinder expansion of big boxes like Bryson's Food Store, Reeves Hardware, Furniture South and the Hampton Inn,

Chairman Griffin Bell and Ginger Slaughter pushed for a variance scenario, to be issued by the Zoning Board.

Since it's common knowledge that the Zoning Board rarely grants variances because it's rare that a request meets all four stipulations, several members opposed the idea.

“I have a problem with that,” said Ricky Bryson. “Reeves or Bryson's may want to expand and they won't be able to.”

Pat Taylor agreed. “I see several businesses that have been here for years that have to compete and may need to expand,” he said.

Thomas Craig said the object shouldn't be to limit how big a business can be and favored expanding only if the footprint of the building or complex doesn't increase.

This was in reference to the possibility that if Bryson's Food Store wanted to expand, he it could using the existing footprint of the Highlands Plaza complex.


Interim Town Planner Richard Betz suggested putting a cap on existing buildings over 15,000 sq. ft. unless issued a Special Use Permit (SUP) from the Zoning Board – something required of all new construction.

After much discussion, the group voted 4 to 1 that an existing business with an SUP may expand up to 25% sq. footage within an existing footprint.

Ginger Slaughter wanted to make sure the record reflected her clear opposition to the ruling.

The Town Board will consider the Planning Board recommendation.


– Jim Lewicki




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## Citizens rally for Pine Street Park

Gary Wein, executive director of the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust received a donation for Pine Street Park from Gloria Pariseau and Janet Wilson. Funds were raised during a recent Dance & BBQ.



### ... SLEEP STUDY continued from page 25

home and showered right away, I still had some itching from the EKG pads and some red spots from the tape that was used to hold everything in place.

Other than some minor skin irritation, it was mostly a benign procedure. I had no problem sleeping with all the equipment connected to me, and the worst part was having no noise in the background to drown out the normal sounds of a hospital at night.

I got home at about 6:15 a.m., and considered going back to bed. My hunger got the best of me, so I decided to stay up. However, at 3 p.m. I took a nap and slept

until 7 p.m. I woke up feeling better than I have in a long time. It wasn't terrific sleep, but it was that exhausted kind of sleep you get that is refreshing even if it doesn't last too long.

I don't know what kind of treatment, if any, will be recommended by my results, but I did learn that sleep studies aren't as bad as people make them out to be. You may not enjoy spending the evening in a hospital room, but hopefully the sleep you get once your problem is identified and addressed will be much more pleasant as a result of the experience.

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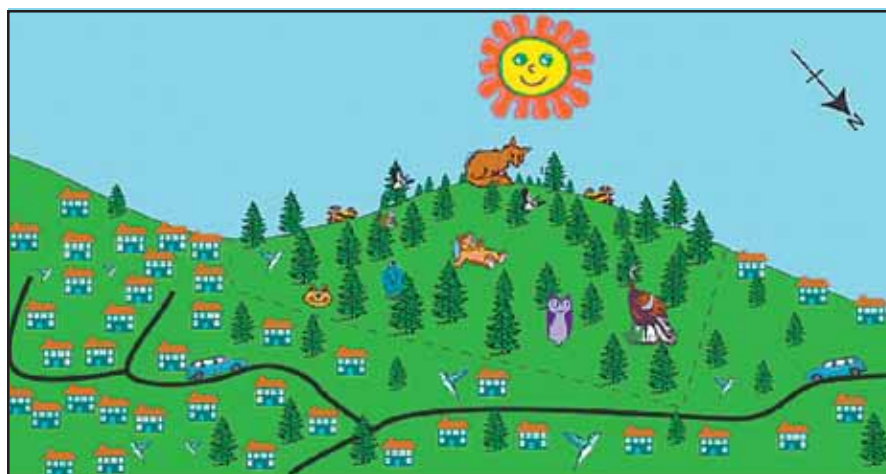
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**Roto-Rooter Plumbing & Drain Cleaning of Highlands and Cashiers now offers septic tank pumping, drain field cleaning and septic field location.**

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View from Highway 64 traveling from Cashiers to Highlands



View from Whiteside Estates and Highlands Cove



**Help me totally eliminate ANY development on 21 acres in the Chattooga Wild & Scenic River areas including the headwaters of Lick Log Creek. Also help me ensure decreased housing density on this knob on Cowee Mountain – visual to so many in Highlands and Cashiers.**  
[www.cowee-chattooga.com](http://www.cowee-chattooga.com)

# • POLICE & FIRE •

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Sept. 16-26. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

**Sept. 16**

- At 6:15 p.m., Paige Alaina Ridgeway, 20, of Highlands, was arrested for stealing a ring valued at \$22,100 from Scudder's Gallery. The ring was reported missing on Aug. 7.

**Sept. 19**

- At 6:55 p.m., a resident on Wyanoak Drive reported his dog had been shot at with a BB gun by two men who later ran off. He told police one man was bald and one man had long hair. The case is under investigation.

- At 4 p.m., a motorist on N. 4th

Street was cited for driving without a current registration..

**Sept. 20**

- At 5:40 p.m, a carved wine stopper valued at \$300 was reported stolen from Southern Hands in Wright Square sometime between 2 and 6 p.m. The case is under investigation.

- At 8:50 p.m., a blue bookbag valued at \$200 was reported taken from a bench on Main Street near AnnaWear where it was left while the person went into the Pizza Place. The case is under investigation.

**Sept. 22**

- At 11:40 a.m., a motorist at Church and S. 4th streets was cited for driving without a license.

- At 10:50 p.m., officers responded to a call of a domestic disturbance in

Room #24 of Highlands Inn. The occupants told police they would be quiet and go to sleep.

- During the week officers issued 2 warning tickets.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Sept. 20-26

**Sept. 20**

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Zachary Road. The patient was transported to the hospital.

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Pine Circle. The call was cancelled.

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Main Street where a person was having an allergic reaction.

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Hicks Road. The patient was transported to the hospital.

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Skyline Lodge where a person had fallen. The patient was transported to the hospital.

**Sept. 22**

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Mirror Lake. The patient was transported to the hospital.

- The dept. responded to a one-vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road. The victims were transported to the hospital.

**Sept. 24**

- The dept. responded to an alarm at The Episcopal Church. It was false.

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Watkins Road where someone had fallen. The patient was transported to the hospital.

- The dept. responded to a false fire alarm at a residence on Cullasaja Club Drive.

**Sept. 25**

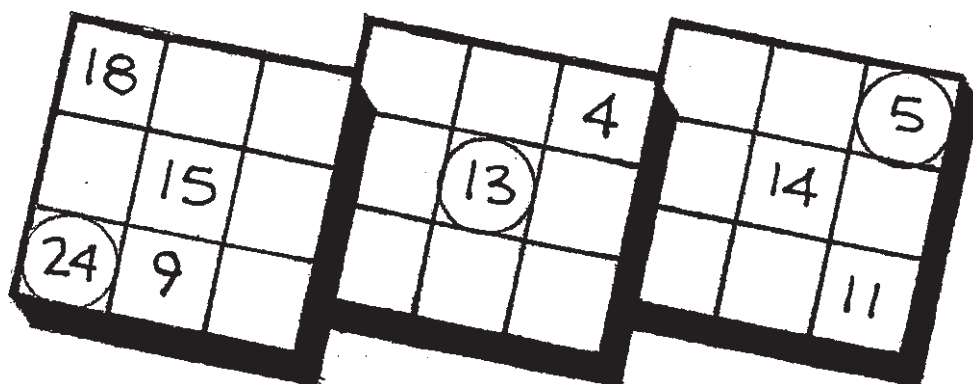
- The dept. responded twice to a false fire alarm at a residence on Cullasaja Club Drive.

**Sept. 26**

- The dept. was first responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Chowan Road where a woman was having back pains. She was transported to the hospital.

## PseudoCube<sup>©</sup>

#AZ1C - Level of Difficulty - Easy



**THE SETUP:**

The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern: For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running through the center number of the middle layer. Each diagonal contains 3 numbers equalling the total of the three center numbers. One of the diagonals is shown with circles.

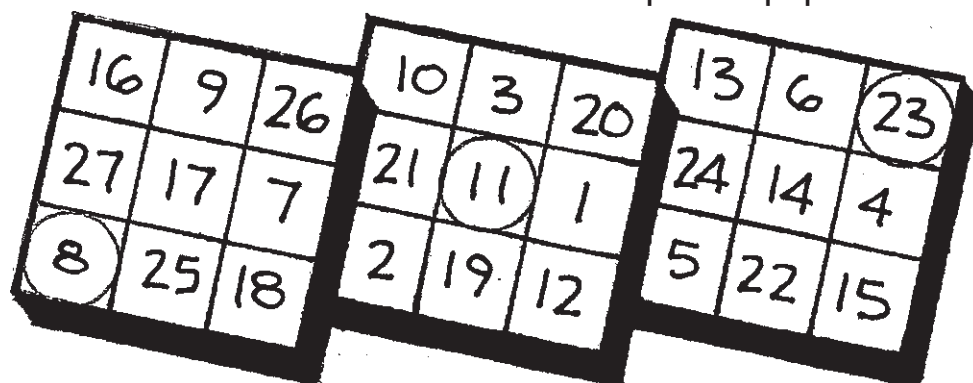
**THE CHALLENGE:**

Start with the three center numbers for each layer and the other numbers given. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other numbers belong. Good Luck!

The first correct solution emailed earns a coupon for a FREE cup of coffee from Buck's Coffee Cafe on Main Street.

Email: [pseudocube8@aol.com](mailto:pseudocube8@aol.com)

Solution to #DZ3C in the Sept. 20 paper



### ... CHARTER continued from page 38

The Macon County School Board ruled unanimously not to consider a partnership with SIATech or a charter school in the district.

"I concur with the board's actions last evening and do not feel that it is in the best interest of the school district to develop a

partnership with this former employee or the company which she represents," said Brigman.

Neither Monica Bomengen nor SIATech representatives responded to questions by press time on Wednesday.

- Kim Lewicki

### ... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 21

truth. I have a friend who serves one of these let's-keep-it-on-the-QT churches ¾ and because this article might get back to him ¾ I'll just call it "Pleasant Valley Church." But in tiny writing at the bottom of his church highway sign it says, "A United Methodist Community."

No matter how much he tries to hide the denomination, he still has to answer to a district superintendent and follow the lead of a bishop. His congregation is bound to uphold and practice the doctrines, beliefs, and mission objectives outlined for all United Methodist congregations. His church pays apportionments to support the denominational ministries (or bureaucracy) just like the rest. He is required to perform the tasks and duties prescribed for all United Methodist pastors. His church has the committees typically involved in Methodist polity. The only noticeable difference is the fine print on the name.

Does it really make a difference? I doubt it. If we're honest about it, people attend and join churches for the same reasons they have since Paul's day: the location of the church; whether or not they like the pastor; family ties to the church; the style of worship; the beliefs, practices, and mission of the congregation...things like that.

I wonder, though, if First Baptist changed its name to "Mountaintop Community of Faith," and Holy Family Lutheran changed its name to "Savior of the Hills Church," and First Presbyterian changed its name to "New Beginnings Community"...I wonder if it would make a difference? And as for Highlands United Methodist? Well, I am bringing it up at the next board meeting to change our name to "Taste of Heaven Community Church." With a name like that just think of the money we could make selling those spiral-bound church cookbooks!

# Find It All On This Map

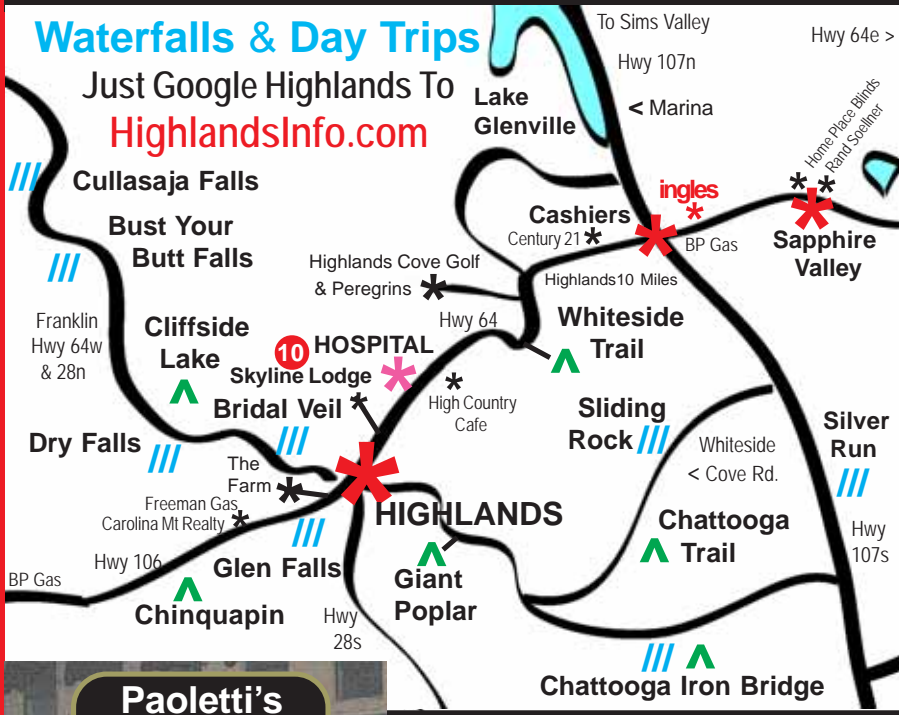
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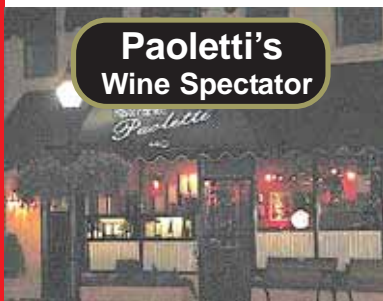
# Highlands Map

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		4 Summit One

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J&J Lawn & Landscaping  
<<< 1 Mile Hwy. 28s

Streets: FOREMAN RD., CHESTNUT ST., LAUREL ST., SPRUCE ST., MAPLE ST., OAK ST., PINE ST., MAIN ST., CHURCH ST., SPRING ST., SOUTH ST., SMALLWOOD RD., LEONARD RD., W. MAIN ST., CITGO, OAK ST., SPRING ST., CHURCH ST., SOUTH ST., TREET RD.

Businesses: Twigs At Highlands Edge, Nest, Whole Health Market, Civic Center Rec. Park Pool & Tennis, Performing Arts Center, Community Players, Phillips 66, Fibber Magee's, Mt Findings, Meadows Mtn. Realty, Brick Oven, Rainy Day Golf, Wayah Insurance, Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals, Rest Rooms, PlayHouse, Police, ABC, Town Hall, Bank, ATM, All Seasons Mill Crk Gallery Needle Point, Schmitt, Drug Store, Cafe 460, PRO NAILS, Hudson Library, Bascom-Louise Gallery, Mt Fresh Foods, Century 21 Creative Concepts, Old Edwards Inn & Spa, Acorns, Child Care, Jackson Madeleine & Basketcase, The Lodge, HillTop, Rib Shack, Cleaners, Peggy Crosby Center, Highlands School K-12.

**Our Maps Are Updated Weekly**