

# Highlands' Newspaper FREE

Volume 6, Number 8

PDF Version – [www.HighlandsInfo.com](http://www.HighlandsInfo.com)

Thursday, Feb. 21, 2008

## On-going

- Spring Soccer Registration at the Rec Park from 5-7 p.m. Cost is \$40 for fall registered players, \$50 for new or non-registered players. Call Christy Weller at 526-9931.

- Cardio Dance Class. \$5 per class, MWF at 8:30 am @ the Rec Park (downstairs).

- Step Aerobics at the Rec Park, 4-5 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays. \$5 per class.

- At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.

## Every Monday

- Recreational Bridge 1 p.m. at the Rec Park. \$3 per person.

## Every Wednesday

- Adult handbell rehearsals at Highlands United Methodist Church at 6 p.m. Call Carroll Harris 526-3376.

- Gospel of John Bible Study Pastor Todd Struble is leading a study this spring on the fourth 6:15-7:15 p.m. Gospel (using the Efir Bible Study Series)

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

## Every Friday & Saturday

- NEW! Live music at The Rib Shack on Spring Street from 7-10 p.m.

## Thursday, Feb. 21

- Dinner to benefit Highlands School 5th Grade to help raise funds for their trip to Charleston, S.C., at escado's from 5-8 p.m.

- Health Tracks Open House and mini-fair at the Rec Park featuring a light buffet lunch to kick-off its new Heart Smart program noon to 2 p.m. Call 526-1FIT (1348)

## Fri.-Sat., Feb. 22-23

- IITC LIVE!, playing every Friday and Saturday night at 8 p.m. in February. For tickets call the ITC box office at 828-342-9197.

## Saturday, Feb. 23

- Zorki performing at Cyprus Restaurant in the Highlands Village Shopping Center on N.C. 106 at 9:30 p.m. \$10 cover.

- Highlands Annual Chili Cook-off, Salsa, & Cornbread Competition from 6:30-9:30 pm. at the Community Building.

## Monday, Feb. 25

- The Art League of Highlands monthly meeting noon at the Rec Park. For more information, call Randy Laws at 526-9245.

## Tuesday, Feb. 26

- HIARPT morning discussions are 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center with lunch to follow Call Creighton Peden 526-4038.

## Thurs.-Sun., Feb. 28-March 2

- HCP's "Lend Me a Tenor" at PAC, 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. (Sunday matinee). For tickets call 526-8084.

## Transfer station work to begin in March

*Landfill on Rich Gap Road to remain open through June.*

With an 18-point agreement between the county and the town of Highlands signed and sealed, construction on the municipal solid waste (MSW) transfer station and the construction and debris (C&D) transfer station is set to

begin.

The finance package is expected to be finalized the first week of March. The bid was preliminarily awarded to the lowest bidder, Perry Bartsch Jr. Construction in the amount of \$778,287.96

New standards mandated by the state concerning solid waste has forced the county to change the land fill on Rich Gap Road to a solid waste transfer station. As of July 1, 2008, all solid waste will

• See TRANSFER page 3

## State says county's wells must be inspected

Another unfunded mandate from the state – this time involving wells — has the county reworking the health department's environmental services component.

At the Feb. 11 Macon County Commission meeting, Director of the Health Department Jim Bruckner and Environmental Services Director Barry Patterson requested funding for two full-time employees to handle the state's new requirements.

The state's new rules – well construction standards – are related to the permitting of Private Drinking Water Wells (PDWW) and go into effect July 1, 2008.

"We are not adequately staffed to coordinate or implement this new program," said Patterson. "Currently, in Macon County it is estimated that 500 wells are drilled annually. It will take two additional Registered Sanitarians to handle the load."

Start-up costs for the new program are estimated to cost \$89,629 and will include salary, benefits, general operating, computers, vehicles and required training costs for two employees.

"There are currently no revenues to cover these initial costs," said Patterson.

Once implemented, the program should cost approximately

• See WELLS page 18

## Seniors honored at Friday's game



Cheerleaders Katie Durham and Shelby Johnson hold senior Sally Wheeler during senior night Friday, Feb. 15. The teams played Blue Ridge at home. For more on the girls' and boys' games, see page 8.

Photo by Stephanie McCall

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## Zoning Board issues SUPs and more

The Zoning Board approved two Special Use Permits (SUP) that came before it Wednesday, Feb. 13.

With the ordinance stipulating the minimum size of a new commercial building at 800 sq. ft. amended for ATM kiosks, the State Employees Credit Union (SECU) returned to the Zoning Board for a SUP rehearing for construction of an ATM in Highlands Plaza.

"Since there was substantial change, a rehearing is allowed," said Josh Ward, code enforcement officer.

Rather than the customary change of plans required to rehear a case, the "substantial change" was the amended ordinance OK'd by the Town Board.

The SECU representative presented a floor plan and elevation of the ATM including the size, type and material for signage, and a construction schedule.

The Appearance Commission had requested the kiosk mimic the Car Spa as much as possible incorporating stone and horizontal wooden siding, a metal roof, similar colors, and an indirectly illuminated single sign on the front of the building.

Since the use of stone would be cost prohibitive, the Zoning Board accepted SECU's plans which will incorporate the Ap-

• See ZONING page 15

## Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
35-29°F	45-30°F	49-32°F

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• **COACH'S CORNER** •

**Random thoughts while attempting to recover from the Siberian Death Flu.**

So about last week...um...all I remember was waking up with a 103-degree fever and then being visited by creatures from the planet Ny-Quil. All in all a very strange week -- one from which I am attempting to fully recover.



**Ryan Potts**  
ryanpotts@hotmail.com

Roger Clemens used 'roids? Really? A 40+ -year-old pitcher who gained a ton of weight and whose performance actually improved with age? And no one suspected this? Actually, I have suspected it for years and have said so in various columns about Barry Bonds. It's amazing to me that with all of the focus and emphasis on Bonds that no one thought to look at Clemens -- probably because he's such a "nice guy." (Nice guy being the code phrase for a guy who would throw his teammates, his agents and even his own wife under the bus to save his failing legacy -- what a trooper!)

Duke lost to Wake Forest on Sunday night because the shots weren't falling. I've been saying it all year -- jump shooting teams cannot win championships, and Sunday night was your visual evidence.

Duke has enough talent and enough shooters to beat anyone on any given night, but when they hit a cold stretch they are vulnerable to less talented teams who play with poise. And while we are on

the subject of Wake Forest, my vote for Coach of the Year goes to Dino Gaudio. He's taken a last place team whose coach died suddenly in the off-season and has them playing over .500 in the ACC this year and fighting for a NCAA tournament birth. Token NASCAR comment...Ryan Newman...Daytona

500...booyah.

This may not be the time to mention this, but I love those GEICO commercials where the kid talks about putting Mike Wallace into the wall. That kid is funny stuff.

Once upon a time, in a land far, far away, there was an evil wizard who wore a grey hooded sweatshirt. That wizard had concocted the most powerful team in all of the National Football League and that team was feared by all who tried to tame it.

Unfortunately for the wizard, a young boy named Eli came of age and vanquished the evil wizard much to the delight of the 1972 Miami Dolphins. Or, at least that's how it happened in my mind anyway. (My daughter has been watching too many fairy tales lately.)

I happened to drive over to Hiwassee Dam Tuesday night to watch the Highlanders in action in their conference

• See COACH'S CORNER page 13

**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.

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## • OBITUARY •

### William Jesse Munger

William Jesse Munger, 95, of Highlands, N.C. died Thursday, February 14, 2008 at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. He was a native of Macon County, the son of the late James S. and Nancy Lenora Jones Munger.

He was married to the late Lona Crane Munger, who passed away in 1995. He was retired from the US Forest Service, he had also worked as a groundskeeper for Highlands School and was an electrician for the Town of Highlands. He was a member of Macedonia Baptist Church.

He is survived by one daughter, Martha Owens and her husband Jayco of Highlands, NC; four sons, John Munger and his wife Alfreda of Clayton, GA, Andy Munger and his wife Gail of Seneca, SC, Jim Munger and his wife Peggy and Fred Munger and his wife Madge all of Highlands, NC; one brother, Pearly Munger of Franklin, NC; 21 grandchildren, 40 great-grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren also survive.

Funeral services were held, Saturday, February 16 at 2 p.m. at Macedonia Baptist Church, with Rev. Everette Wilson and Rev. Walter Wilson officiating. Burial will be in the Church Cemetery. Pallbearers were Rick Munger, Joe Munger, Tony Munger, Jess Munger, James Owens, Allen Shearl, Gene Owens, Benny Owens, Dennis Owens, and Johnny Owens. Bryant -Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Online obituary is available at [www.MeM.com](http://www.MeM.com) or [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).

### ... TRANSFER continued from page 1

be transferred to a trailer and trucked down to the Franklin landfill – the only landfill that will remain in operation in the county. Previously, waste was deposited in the landfill on Rich Gap Road.

Solid Waste Director Chris Stahl said the county can't afford to revamp both landfills to current state standards.

At the Feb. 11 county commission meeting, commissioners accepted the finalized agreement between the town of Highlands and the county concerning both the construction of the transfer station and long term commitments by both parties.

As per the agreement, the transfer station will be open Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. except on county holidays not occurring on Monday and Friday.

For county citizens who don't have garbage pick-up by the town of Highlands, the convenience center component of the transfer station will remain open for household garbage.

Construction will begin in March with a target completion date of July 2008.

In the agreement the county will:

Construct and operate the transfer station; obtain all the required permits; pay for all equipment needed to operate the station and pay the yearly operating costs; pay for 60% of the construction; the town of Highlands agrees to pay 40% of costs in the amount of \$476,000.

The money will be held by the county in the N.C. Cash Management Trust Account and the county will account for all funds withdrawn from the account. Once the project is completed, actual costs will be reconciled and any funds in the account in excess of 40% of costs will be returned to the town.

The town will pay transfer fees for carting its municipal garbage down the mountain and will pay a tipping fee once deposited at the landfill as per the following equation:

(Cost of transfer to MSW landfill/maximum weight in tons of transfer trailer) x tons of town waste in transfer trailer = per load transfer fee.

The transfer and tipping fee will be based on costs of operation and transfer costs at the beginning of each fiscal year. The per ton fee rates will be delivered to the town each year so the town can adjust its collection fees accordingly. Tipping and transfer fees will be calculated from waste tickets and billed to the town on a monthly basis.

Stahl said the goal is to keep the solid waste department a self-sufficient enterprise fund for the county.

With the future in mind, both sides agree to operate the transfer station for at least 10 years with extensions and amendments to the agreement possible every five years.

If the county breaches the agreement by ceasing operation, the town will receive its initial investment less 10% for each year the facility operated from the beginning of the agreement.

If the town breaches the agreement by not delivering all regularly collected residential and commercial wastes to the transfer station before the end of the initial term, the county will receive an amount from the town equal to its initial investment less 50% of the transfer and tipping fees paid by the town since the initiation of the agreement.

At the Feb. 6 Town Board meeting, commissioners voted unanimously to accept the agreement and at the Feb. 11 Macon County commission meeting, the board did the same.

County Manager Jack Horton said only the financing package had to be completed, otherwise the project was a "go."

The landfill will remain open and operations continue as they do now until June 30, 2008.

Comedy written by Ken Ludwig

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## Town agrees to help fund Greenway

About 1 1/2 years ago, talk about a comprehensive greenway trail in Highlands began in earnest.

Since that time public input sessions were held, ordinances have been adopted concerning trail rights-of-way, buffers and development.

At the urging of Hillrie Quin, director of the Greenway committee, the Town Board agreed to put aside \$100,000 a year for the acquisition of rights-of-way and development of the trail.

The only stipulation to funding was that the Town Board be advised as to specific expenditures as needed.

At the Feb. 6 Town Board meeting, Quin requested matching funds for a

\$5,000 grant through the N.C. Department of Natural Resources Adopt-A-Trail.

"The grant and town match will allow the Highlands Plateau Greenway committee to purchase a small trailer, tools and safety equipment," said Quin. "The equipment will be housed in the trailer and kept at the Rec Park."

The grant also provides for an initial supply of trail maps, brochures and plastic trail blazes to be used for the greenway.

Quin said the tools will be used to build the trails, the safety equipment will be used by those who build and maintain the trails and everyone using power

•See GREENWAY page 11

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**Seniors recognized at Friday's game**




Principal Brian Jetter presented each senior basketball player with flowers which they in turn gave to their parents at Senior Night, Friday, Feb. 15. It was the last home game against Blue Ridge. Left is Jake Heffington and right Austin Brooks.

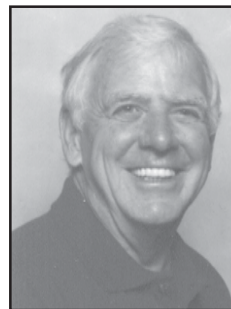
Photo by Stephanie McCall

• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

**A fungus among us!**

Don't I have enough to worry about? There's the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. I fret about whether Iran will wipe Israel off the face of the map when they finally get *the bomb*. And will that start World War III.

Then there's that scary, shrinking list of presidential candidates. One of those characters will actually be our next president. Yikes, think about that! Will Hillary take away my perfectly good health care plan and make me buy a government plan that doesn't work? Name one program the government has run in the last 100 years that actually worked well and wasn't in the red. Go ahead, name one... I'm waiting!



**Fred Wooldridge**

**Feedback is encouraged!**  
**email:**  
[askfredanything@aol.com](mailto:askfredanything@aol.com)

And how about this Obama character? I call him the riddler because he sure talks a lot and says nothing. I used to know a preacher like that. Worse yet, what happens if a Republican gets back in? I can't take another four years of this prosperous life.

Now, piled on top of all those worries, I open the Highlands Newspaper last week and learn that the Indiana bat has a fungus. For crying out loud, don't I have enough on my plate without this?

And why are these disease ridden bats hanging out (ha) in Western North Carolina caves? Are there no caves in Indiana for them to infect? This is serious stuff. Next thing you know these infected Indiana bug eaters will be passing the disease on to our cute little brown North Carolina bats that will pass it on to the scary vampire bat.

There is real cause for concern, not for the bats but for the cone heads that work for the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service that actually spend our tax money by going out and counting bats. These people are very scary and I'm betting they're all women.

According to these bat counters, the *Myotis Sodalis* has developed white nose syndrome and it's spreading. (I was awake all night with worry.) While the number of bats is increasing, the increase is decreasing. At last count, there were 513,000 of these little guys left; up from a mere 469,000 last year. I learned how to speak this way when I had to explain how crime stats work. I majored in confusing the public on the decrease of increasing numbers in college.

I recently had the pleasure of interviewing one of these infamous bat counters in a dark cave near Bryson City.

Here's the part of our conversation that could be put in print.

"Thanks so much, Ms. bat counter, for inviting me to your cave for a bat count. And thanks for the Smoky Bear hat. It sure does help keep the bat droppings off my shirt. And thanks for warning me not to open my mouth when I look up. Let's get down to business. All these bats look the same to me. How do you know which ones are the Indiana bats?"

"That's easy, Mr. Newspaper man. While the Indiana bat looks much like the North Carolina brown bat, a closer inspection will reveal that the Indiana bats have bigger feet. See that group over there? They all have the bigger feet and belong to the *Myotis Sodalis* family."

"Awesome," I said, pretending I could actually tell the difference in their feet.

"And there's more," she continued. "The Indiana bats have pink lips."

"So, you're telling me all the big footed, pink lipped bats in here are from Indiana. There are so many thousands of bats in here. How are you able to count them all?"

"That's the easy part," she smiled. "We count all the big feet, then divide by two. We would count pink lips but because many are covered with white nose syndrome, it's hard for us to see their little lips."

"This is really fascinating," I quipped. "Tell me this. When your department finally determines a bat count, have they included the thirteen living in my belfry?"

She looked at me with suspicion. "Are you poking fun at me? I am, after all, a certified bat counter."

I defended myself. "No, I'm not, but I noticed your agency seems to round off their bat count to the nearest hundredth. There are a lot of belfries out there with bats in them. And here's another question. Did you consider that some of these bats may only have one leg? That would throw your count way off, wouldn't it?"

"Mr. Newspaper man, get out of my cave!"

I got outta there like a bat out of hell. I didn't want to sic her bats on me.

• Read Fred online at [www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com), scroll down, click on News.

## • ANOTHER VIEW •

### Here's to Obama and here's why

Senator Clinton is in trouble. She may yet prevail in her quest for the Democratic nomination, but I'd be surprised. What happened to the once inevitable candidate who enjoyed double-digit leads over all challengers?

The answer is simple. Barack Obama emerged as the inspirational leader, not of black Americans, or Democratic Americans, but of Americans. Senator Clinton still doesn't seem to understand. She continues to point to her experience and the specifics of her program for America. What is the great experience that she boasts, anyway? First Lady of Arkansas? First Lady of the USA? Or eight years in the Senate?

She claims to have a vision of America, but I, and apparently a good many other Americans, don't believe her. Her vision, if she has one, is of becoming President of the United States. And that vision is rapidly blurring. She is much like the smartest girl in eleventh grade, the one with all the A's in history and social studies. She really doesn't care if the school parking lot is repaved, if Coke machines replace juice machines in social hall, or if the cafeteria stops hot lunch in favor of pizza and Big Macs. She wants, more than anything, to be senior class president, and she will rail against hot lunch, pot holes, and healthy potables if that is the path to success.

What Hillary fails to understand is that she can't bury Barack Obama under a 13-page document which outlines her prescription for an ailing economy. She can't diminish his appeal by claiming that he is long on rhetoric and short on specific solutions to the problems that plague us. She can no more crush him under a stack of proposals than she can catch a lightning bolt in a butterfly net. His candidacy exists on a different plane. Senator Clinton is the kind of person who makes lists of chores. She is basically a technocrat.

Senator Obama is the man who dreams great dreams and inspires us to dream them too, and he has great speech writers, or is himself a great speech writer. He might even borrow a great line from time to time.

Senator Clinton has adopted an oratorical style of old time politicians. Senator Obama sounds more like John Kennedy or Ronald Reagan. He speaks to our souls. He appeals to the best of what we might become. When I watch Senator Clinton, she reminds me of a slightly out of sync bobble head. The flourishes of her hands, the nodding of her head, and her words belong to



**Dr. Henry Salzarulo**

**Feedback is encouraged.**

**email:**  
**hsalzarulo@aol.com**

another time, maybe a time of stage plays or radio coverage of political campaigns. She could be William Jennings Bryant, delivering his "Cross of Gold" speech. Her words don't soar. They just come out shrill and contrived.

She doesn't sound like Ted Kennedy mourning the death of Robert, or Ronald Reagan comforting a grieving nation after the Challenger tragedy. Senator Obama has avoided the traditional exaggerated rhetoric of black leaders, a style adopted from

the pulpit of African American churches. I can find inspiration in "I have a dream," but I can't claim ownership. It stems from a culture, not my own. Senator Obama has become, not a black leader, but an American leader. His appeal extends beyond the black community to the young, to the educated, to of all things, southern white males.

America has changed. I remember well the 1980s. Basketball fans cheered either for the Larry Bird (white) led Boston Celtics or the Magic Johnson (black) led Los Angeles Lakers. I didn't know one black guy who cheered for the Celtics or one white guy who favored the Lakers. Just a few years later, we were all able to celebrate Michael Jordan and his Chicago Bulls. Maybe if there had been a white guy to act as a foil to Jordan, it might not have happened. There wasn't, and it did. In the white world of professional golf, fans everywhere cheer for Tiger Woods because he is far and away the best golfer on the planet, because there is magic in his clubs. By the way, he is black.

Finally, we can accept greatness in a person of color beyond the athletic field. A leader has emerged who calls to us to be better, as a nation, than we have been. Isn't that the role of the President of the United States, to inspire us, to bring us together, to bridge the widening partisan gap that exists today? Hillary can't do it with her lists of things for America to do. Mike Huckabee can't do it with his focus on Christian issues. And John McCain, whom I admire enormously, doesn't understand the need for a new direction. I don't agree with Senator Obama on every point. After opposing the war in Iraq for years, I find myself fearing a precipitous withdrawal. I doubt that we can effectively educate inner city youth, rehabilitate convicts, or achieve many other lofty goals without some fundamental changes in our society, the most basic of these, to borrow from an Irish anthem, is to become "A Nation Once Again." I'd like to give the guy a chance to try.

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## • REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

### Preserving our collective legacy

Sometimes I think we are so enamored of current technology we overlook the incredible legacy of human thought all around us. Look at your sock. Think about the amazing ingenuity it took to figure out how to perfectly shape knit material around the human heel. Imagine yourself with two knitting needles and a ball of yarn and no instructions. How long would it take you to knit a sock?

Think about the food you eat. Think about the people, tens of thousands of years ago, who first discovered the relationship of seed to plant, and then learned to grow plants to feed themselves. Think about this: almost no new plants or animals have been domesticated in the

last 10,000 years.

Our lives are built upon a long accumulation of human intellectual achievement, much of which we take completely for granted today. In this age of industrialized agriculture, when only a fraction of the population is involved in food production, most of us take our food for granted: we just go to the supermarket when the refrigerator is empty. Imagine if you had to grow all the food your family ate and preserve enough seed to grow next year's crop.

Learning to preserve seeds was one of the first skills our ancestors learned as they transitioned from hunter-gatherers to

farmers. Archeologists have found seed deposits in Jarmo, Iraq, that date from 6750 B.C.

As farmers replanted their seeds, over time their crops became adapted to local growing conditions. As a result of these adaptations, enormous diversity developed — there are over 120,000 varieties of rice alone. For a local example, my late neighbor Hazel Killebrew grew a variety of tomato she called Thomas Wilson that has been growing up here for generations and is therefore perfectly adapted to Highlands, which can be a difficult place to grow tomatoes (too cool and wet). And shame on me, I don't have any of those seeds.

In the 1920s hybridization was discovered to produce robust harvests and farmers began to purchase the new hybrid seeds instead of saving their own. This brought about the "green revolution" in the 1950s and 1960s that saw third-world countries' agricultural output quadruple and hunger drop.

However, the adoption of hybrid varieties by farmers meant that agricultural crop diversity began to decline. In the U.S. in the last century, the number of cabbage varieties grown dropped from 548 to 28, cauliflower from 158 to 9, and pears from 2683 to 326. In addition, the hybrids were developed for production and transport, so often had less flavor and nutritional value than the older varieties.

Today our farms are planted with huge "monocultures" of the same crop variety, which means the entire national crop becomes extremely vulnerable to disease, insect attack, or climate change. For example, in 1970 corn blight hit cornfields in the southern United States; some states lost 50% of their crop.

Genetic diversity in agricultural crops means the difference between a white potato and a Yukon Gold, but it also encodes 10,000 years of growth in different climates and ecosystems. Nations around the world maintain seed banks in the recognition that the future of their food supply requires the preservation of this genetic legacy; the U.S. National Plant Germplasm System in Fort Collins, CO, holds nearly 500,000 kinds of seeds.

The Global Crop Diversity Trust is an independent international organization which was created to ensure the conservation of crop diversity worldwide.

From their website (croptrust.org): "Together with the air we breathe and the water we drink, crop diversity is one of the most fundamentally important resources

for human life on earth. This diversity provides the natural, biological basis of our ability to grow the food required today, as well as to meet the challenges of population growth, changing climates and constantly evolving pests and diseases. No country in the world is self-sufficient in crop diversity — agriculture everywhere depends on it. Yet this diversity, contained and stored in seeds, is at risk of disappearing. But we don't have to sit back and let this



Katie Brugger

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happen."

Their solution is the Svalbard International Seed Vault that will house seed samples from nearly every country in the world with the aim of protecting the agricultural heritage of humankind from catastrophes, such as nuclear wars, asteroid strikes and global warming.

The seed vault is built into a mountain near Longearbyen, the largest settlement in the Svalbard archipelago, which is part of Norway. The Norwegian government has paid the construction costs of \$5 million.

The seed vault will be built 120 meters inside the permafrost, 130 meters above sea level. The seed samples — there's room for 4.5 million — will be stored at -18 degrees Celsius. "By building the vault deep inside the mountain, the surrounding permafrost would continue to provide natural refrigeration if the mechanical system failed," said Gary Fowler, Executive Director of the Global Crop Diversity Trust.

The grand opening is scheduled for February 26, 2008. The Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture reports that seeds are coming in from every corner of the world: "several thousand potato seeds from Peru; 30,000 different beans from Colombia; 10,000 types of maize from Mexico; 30,000 seed samples of mostly barley and wheat from the Middle East; and the biggest contributor of all is the seed bank of the Philippines, shipping 70,000 different varieties of rice from 120 different countries.

If you are planting a garden this year and would like to try some traditional "heirloom" varieties of vegetables, a couple of choices are Seeds of Change (seedsofchange.com) and Seed Savers Exchange (seedsavers.org). These companies' plants will produce viable seeds and you can replant them to produce your own Highlands varieties.

• All of Katie Brugger's columns are available on her website:  
[www.kathleenbrugger.com](http://www.kathleenbrugger.com)

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## • HIS & HERS •

### Feeling the Burn

John and I just hired a personal trainer, and I want you to know that after only a few sessions, I can already feel the burn. Yup, I am so burned up, I could catch on fire. It burns me up that there are actually people out there who enjoy working out. I'm not one of them. Putting on exercise shorts, tennis shoes, and one of my collection of t-shirts with something witty/biting/sarcastic on it has to qualify as one of life's more humiliating episodes, and it burns me up that we are actually paying for this torture. It reminds me of high school, when we girls had to don egregious sea foam green one-piece gym suits with bloomer legs. Should one of our male classmates spy us in such garb, we knew we were in for days of merciless teasing in the lunchroom. My poor mother had beautifully embroidered "M. Mead" on the pocket of my gym suit, which really amounted to putting lipstick on a pig. I think I actually torched that gym suit after graduation, giving me one of the few feelings of satisfaction to be connected to my experience of high school.

I arrived in Highlands in November of 2005, and since then, the bathroom scale has slowly crept up. Granted, I was coming out of knee surgery, and had lost weight during that procedure. Still, the realization that there were now 30 more pounds of me to love was not a happy one. John and I are going to be getting married in a few months, and we do not want to shudder looking back over our wedding photos. Every woman dreams of looking like something out of a movie for her wedding, and I don't mean the white whale in *Moby Dick*, either.

Normally not one to make New Year's Resolutions, I made one this year. I had to get serious about becoming increasingly unfit. In New York, I walked almost everywhere. After all, it was only five blocks to my office! Even longer walks didn't seem like such a big deal – the Alliance Française, Bloomingdale's, Carnegie Hall, Rockefeller Center, Grand Central Station – all of these New York landmarks were within walking distance. Suddenly, in Highlands, the only place that was within walking distance was our barn. Everywhere we went, we had to take the car. Southern gentleman that he is, John would insist on dropping me off in



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

front of our destination, and then go off to park the car. I was loved, but getting lardy. I didn't ask that my clothes fit me anymore. I only wanted them not to hurt when I wore them. Want a good name for a horror film? How about *The Attack of the Killer Waistband?*

John wasn't pleased with himself, either. "I have the body of a god" he declared the other day. "Unfortunately, that god is Buddha." We agreed that our gym membership last year had been a step in the right direction, but that neither one of us had the motivation to do it alone. Enter our personal trainer, Marsha.

Marsha had been my own personal angel after knee surgery. She had the perfect combination of encouragement, teasing, and discipline to whip me back into shape. I couldn't have done it without her. Not surprisingly, when John and I realized we needed help getting fit, Marsha was the one person I knew we needed. Fortunately for us, she was studying to become certified, and agreed to take us on. It seemed like a match made in heaven. That is, until the first day of exercising. Suddenly, combining sore, humiliated, and tired didn't seem like such a great idea after all. Still, we had decided to stick to it, and stick to it we have.

On Monday, we add another aspect to our own personal Battle of the Bulge – Yvonne, the nutritionist. I'm not just a "meat and potatoes" girl. I am a butter, *croissant*, and *fois gras* girl. My idea of a meal is not a spinach salad composed of two wilted leaves with lemon juice squeezed on them. My idea of food includes wild and crazy things, like bread and sauces and things that actually have taste. I'm going to try to keep an open mind, but if you're like me, life's just too short to eat tofu.

We just attended the Heart Healthy Fair at the Rec Center, in an attempt to get some ideas and motivation for our healthier life style. In all fairness, it was surprisingly fun and interesting. For one thing, I got a chance to sip a drink I'd seen people drink before. Perhaps you know the one – that nasty looking green stuff that looks like what you get if you take a pressure washer to the underside of your lawn mower? Well, I'm pleased to

• See HIS & HERS page 9

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• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL BASKETBALL •

## Highlands School teams wrap up season



Bobbi Jo Talley goes for a rebound against Blue Ridge Friday night.

Hiwassee Dam  
 The girls played Hiwassee Dam's tough Lady Eagles on Friday, Feb. 8 losing 80-30. Taylor Buras led the Lady Highlanders with 8 points and Bobbi Jo Talley added 7. All team members contributed points, respectively. Marlee McCall scored 4 points, and Susan Johnson, Sarah Power, Brie Schmitt, Jessica Gagne and Kate-Marie Parks each scored 2 points.

Nantahala  
 The Lady Highlanders proved what hard-work, dedication, and team-work meant, Monday, Feb. 11 against Nantahala. Highlands won 60-37.

Brie Schmitt led the team with 19 points, 5 assists, and 8 rebounds. Sarah Power followed with 15 points, 12 rebounds. Taylor Buras had 12 points, 5 rebounds, and 7 assists. The team had a total of 41 rebounds and a shooting percentage of 60%.

Marlee McCall 6 points, 1 rebound and 1 assist, Bobbie Jo Talley scored 4 points with 3 rebounds, Kate-Marie Parks go 2 points with 7 rebounds and Jessica Gagne scored 2 points and had 4 rebounds, 1 assist and 1 block.

Hendersonville  
 Brie Schmitt led with 15 points and Taylor Buras added 10 but the Lady Highlanders lost to Hendersonville 61-34 on Tuesday, Feb. 12. Schmitt also made 2 assists, 1 block and 3 steals. Buras made 2 assists and had 2 rebounds.

Marlee McCall scored 6 points made 1 assist and 1 rebound. Kate-Marie Parks scored 2 points and had 7 rebounds. Sarah Power: scored 1 point made 5 assists, 3 rebounds, and 1 block/steal. Bobbi Jo Talley had one rebound.

Blue Ridge  
 Highlands made a much deserved win against Blue Ridge, Friday, Feb. 15 at home. The score was 73-41.

"It was a total team effort tonight as the Lady Highlanders won the last game of the regular season," said Coach Brett Lamb.

High scorer was Brie Schmitt with 17 points followed by Rachel Power with 13 and Courtney Rogers with 12.

Next up was Taylor Buras with 9 points, Marlee McCall with 8, Jessica Gagne with 6, Kate Marie Parks with 5, Bobbi Jo Talley with 2 and Susan Johnson with one point.

A total of 40 rebounds occurred with Bobbi Jo Talley, Sarah Power, and Kate Parks leading with 6 and three other team members having 5 each. A total of 19 team steals occurred along with 12 assists and 14 blocked/tip shots.

"It was a great way to end the season and carry the momentum into the conference tournament," said Lamb.

The team's stats are 3-25; conference 3-3.

The Highlanders  
 It was a winning night all the way around Friday, Feb. 15 at home for Highlands.

The boys beat the Blue Ridge Bobcats 71-34 as they headed for conference.

High scorer was Jake Heffington with 24 points followed by Ezra Herz with 12 and Michael Shearl with 11.

Next up was Robbie Vanderbilt with 9, Andrew Billingsley with 7, 3 each for Samuel Wheeler and Austin Brooks; and 2 for Josh Delacruz.

Hiwassee Conference Game  
 The boys won the first conference game 78 to 72 against Hiwassee Dam on their home turf, Tuesday, Feb. 19.

Michael Shearl was high scorer for this game scoring 21 points. He was followed by Jake Heffington and Ezra Herz both with 18 points and Andrew Billingsley with 13 points. Next up was Michael Baty with 6 points and Casey Molinary with 2 points. The team slammed Hiwassee Dam during the second quarter scoring 31 of their points.

The team's overall record is 9-20 and its conference record is 3-3. The next game is the finals of the Conference Tournament at Hiwassee Dam on Feb. 21.



## • CONSERVATIVE POV •

### Here's the windup... here comes the pitch

A strange thing happened this morning. I turned on the financial news channel I watch every day, and instead of business news and interviews that is the channel's format, I am looking at Rep. Henry Waxman's flaring nostrils (the man has a porcine-like nose). What is the Chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee doing on a business channel? Investigating the use of steroids and human growth hormones in major league baseball, of course.

For two hours I watched members of the Committee grilling Roger Clemens and his ex-personal trainer over Clemens' alleged use of said banned drugs. It was interesting watching two grown men lying to congressmen (a brilliant strategy learned from a then sitting President). A number of questions leapt to mind. First, why was CNBC, a business news network, televising such a non-business related proceeding? I have no answers.

Next, why was Congress investigating a baseball issue in the first place, televised or not? While harboring cynical thoughts is not my style, shouldn't Congress have something better to do than to dabble in the turpitude of professional sports? It seems to me that they burn the midnight oil on the last day of the session passing volumes of bills they haven't read. I guess slipping in all those earmarks can wait until the baseball police have finished their investigation.

Next, why did Congress get involved at all? Because the esteemed former Senator George Mitchell was charged with the responsibility of getting to the bottom of the performance-enhancing drug use in baseball. For 20 months, he and his staff interviewed dozens of ballplayers, equipment room managers, batboys (no kidding) and anyone else who would talk to them. At the end of his extensive investigation, the Mitchell Report was issued.

The Mitchell Report, 409 pages long, concluded that, yes, there was such a problem. Yes, senator, that is why you were hired. It recommended that players should be educated as to the deleterious effects of such drugs. It recommended that an effort should be made to keep drugs out of the clubhouse. It recommended that club security personnel should do a better job of watching out for abuse. Profound.

Let's take one more step backward,



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

shall we? Major League Baseball was enjoying a huge resurgence after their stupid labor union dispute ended the 1994 season prematurely. Barry Bonds, Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire had some prodigious home-run production and the fans responded. Major League Baseball rose from the ashes due to the increase in homer frequency. People turn out to see the ball leave the park. The three had something else in common.

They were all accused of using performance-enhancing drugs, along with dozens of other ballplayers.

Enter Bud Selig, Jr. Bud was named acting Commissioner of Baseball in 1992. At the time, he was thought of as a dufus and the 1994 strike seemed to verify the idea. Then balls started flying out of the park, fan interest perked up, attendance soared, and, in 1998, Bud Selig, Jr. was named Commissioner without the acting part. Now, everyone knew the increased production was due to the players' use of drugs. Bud certainly knew it but looked the other way, to the pleasure of the players' union, team owners and the fans.

Pressure started to build, and I know not from where, to do something about the rampant use of drugs and finally Bud acted. He hired former Senator George Mitchell to investigate, never thinking that the result of his action would end up being splattered all over national television in February 2008. Many seasoned baseball fans watched a baseball icon, Roger Clemens, being ripped and torn by Congressmen. At a time when many of us should be starting to think about spring training and the start of the season, we're faced with charges, counter-charges and general legal mayhem. Nice work, Bud.

Some of you won't agree with this, and that is your prerogative. Baseball players are entertainers. People go to games to be entertained, nothing more, nothing less. Frankly, I don't care if they shoot-up with jet fuel if it makes the game more entertaining. Before you spaz out, consider rock stars. They are entertainers. Almost all of them use drugs to produce a more enjoyable performance, yet no one insists that they be drug tested. Sure they ruin their bodies and die before they should, but who really cares. The concert's the thing, isn't it?

And don't give me the role model story. Ballplayers have been replaced by the rockers as role models, for better or worse.

### ... HIS & HERS continued from page 7

report that the drink isn't half bad; in fact it's quite pleasant. Sure, there's a little taste of wheat grass or some such, but they also put fruit in it to make it taste a lot better than it looks. The muffins, grits, and quiche were darned right good – all

of the recipes had been modified to be healthier, while still retaining their flavor. Maybe this isn't going to be as awful as I dreaded.

They say that living healthy isn't about going on some wacky diet which you can't keep up, nor going overboard on exercising. It's a whole lifestyle change. I'm prepared to give this thing a go, and glad I don't have to do it alone. Heart attacks, diabetes, and cancer run in my family, so I have a lot of good reasons to take all this seriously. I know it's going to be a long term thing. After all – we've got a wedding coming up. Lordy. I just hope folks don't throw brown rice!

• About the Author: Michelle A. Mead is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She lives on top of a mountain near Highlands. Michelle is a member of the Highlands Writers Group. She dearly hopes to have a starring role in the upcoming film, *The Incredible Shrinking Woman*. Angelina Jolie, eat your heart out.

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(Mark 4:1-11)

Sunday, February 17: "Tested" (John 3:1-17)

Sunday, February 24: "Thirsty"  
(John 4:5-42)

Sunday, March 2: "Tried" (Ephesians 5:8-14)

Sunday, March 9: "Troubled" (Psalm 130)

Sunday, March 16: "Triumphant"  
(Matthew 21:1-11)

Sunday, March 23: "True" (Matthew 28:1-10)

### Highlands United Methodist Church

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Todd Struble, Senior Pastor  
Mike Harris, Associate Pastor  
Les Scott, Minister of Music

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

**Thirsty?**



**Asst. Pastor Mike Harris**  
Highlands United Methodist Church

By Mike and Carroll Harris

As we ponder the story of the woman at the well found in John 4:4-45 we contemplate what must have been going through her mind when she realized she was face to face with the Messiah. As we think about her sitting, listening taking in what this stranger had to share, we think of our children. As a child we depend on our parents to take care of our basic needs. The most important of those needs seems to be food and water. Can you hear the little voices whining .. I mean calling now from the back seat of the car... "I'm thirsty!"

The scene at the well that day must have been powerful. Jesus, a Jew, having the audacity to ask a Samaritan for water. Then, proceeding to challenge her further, He called her to the proverbial carpet. He impressed upon her the knowledge that he knew her inside and out! He tells her that only He can give her the water that will quench her thirst. Jesus tells her about this "Living Water" that will be a "spring within, gushing fountains of endless life" (The Message). Can you imagine a trickle of water that will result in gushing fountains? That's a lot of water!

Not only is He making an offer to the woman, but her village, other Samaritans, too, will know the Messiah has come. Jesus is offering them a chance for rebirth and renewal. The thirst he is offering to quench is the thirst for illumination that can only come from a relationship with God. Rebirth and renewal is what we look for on a daily basis. It's the understanding that God wants to give us the water as much as we desire it.

When we are children, things are so easy to understand. Our theology is very basic. Jesus loves me. It's very simple, to the point, and understandable. It's as we get older that things get more confusing and complex.

As adults we become thirstier without completely understanding why. We're supposed to have childlike faith, yet somewhere along the line we've stopped asking our Father for something to drink. We tend to depend on our own water rather than seeking the living water. We're missing the kind of water that not only quenches our thirst, but gushes forth a fountain. If we sit and listen, accept the water that quenches our eternal thirst, we have a presence, a power that the Holy Spirit provides. We have the comfort and excitement that Jesus shared that day with the Samaritan woman. Once our thirst is quenched, imagine the thirst of those around us, how we too can return to our village and share the excitement, the passion of the one who came to give us living water. This water is not only offered to the Samaritan

•See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 18

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

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Pot Luck Lunch last Sunday of each month.

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

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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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526-3376

Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 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

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th sunday of the month.

**LITTLE CHURCH OF THE WILDWOOD**

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.

**MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH**

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah  
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

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**

828-369-3633

Lay Led Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

Sundays: Worship - 11 a.m.

**WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

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



The cast of ITC LIVE!

## This weekend is the last weekend for ITC LIVE! Don't miss it!

ITC LIVE! makes its final two appearances at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22 and Saturday, Feb. 23 at the Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main.

ITC LIVE!, features long form improvisation which is seldom seen outside of Chicago and San Francisco.

From one audience suggestion the monologist in the troupe delivers an impromptu monologue, and from that monologue the players in the troupe create 40-45 minutes of non-stop hilarious scenes and characters. It has to be seen to be believed.

Act II of ITC LIVE! is comprised of short form improv games that Highlands audiences who have attended the previous three ITC improvisation shows are familiar with.

However, even if you are familiar with the form of the games, no two will ever be alike. As no performance of ITC LIVE! is ever the same.

Frequently audience members return to see the show for a second or third time. If you have already seen the show and wish to see ITC LIVE! again you may purchase your ticket for \$5 off the regular ticket price of \$20.

For reservations please call the ITC box office at 828-342-9197. The Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main is located at 310 Oak Square, Main Street, Highlands.

The Instant Theatre Company is very grateful to its generous sponsor of ITC LIVE!, Meadows Mountain Realty.

## 7 Days A Week 24 Hours A Day...Even Holidays

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### ... GREENWAY continued from page 3

equipment like chainsaws will undergo a training session prior to use.

"We approved \$100,000 for the Greenway and they're asking us for considerably less than that," said Town Administrator Richard Betz.

The Adopt-A-Trail grant will fund \$4,978.42 and the town will fund \$4,107.83 for items not covered by the

grant – trailer with ramp, combination lock, chain saw, chaps, helmet, gloves, hardhat, shin guards, and safety glasses.

The board voted unanimously to fund the request.

Quin said the trailer, tools and equipment will also be available for other groups to use.

## • OUTDOOR - INDOOR REMODEL-RENEW •

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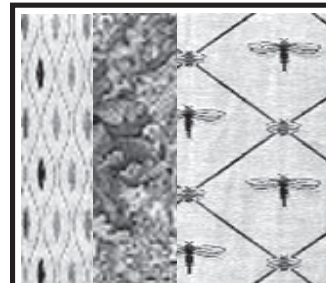
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828-526-0782

## HELP WANTED

**SERVERS AND COUNTER HELP  
NEEDED** at SweeTreats, Highlands. Call 526-9822.

**MAINTENANCE ENGINEER POSITION  
AVAILABLE** at Hampton Inn/Highlands Inn. Year Round/Full time. Must have basic knowledge of electronics, plumbing, minor electrical and construction. Send Resume to P.O. Box 1060 Highlands, NC 28741 or email to info@hamptoninn-nc.com. Call Sabrina for interview 828-526-5899.

**FRONT DESK REPRESENTATIVE** position available. Year round/full time. Must be friendly, enjoy working with the public and good at multi tasking. Send Resume' to P.O. Box 1060, email info@hamptoninn-nc.com. Call Sabrina for interview 828-526-5899.

**PIANIST NEEDED** for sweet little mountain chapel. Holy Family Lutheran Church, Highlands, is seeking a pianist for one service per week, Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Piano/keyboard only, no organ, no choir. Will pay stipend plus mileage. Please contact Chaplain Margaret Howell at 704) 516-7893.

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH** is accepting resumes for a part-time office assistant. Computer skills, people skills and creative abilities are required. 828-526-4685 or office@cbchighlands.com

**CHESTNUT HILL IS CURRENTLY  
SEEKING A RESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT** in a 26-bed ASSISTED LIVING CENTER. Benefits. Pre-employment drug screening and background check. EOE. Please apply in person at 64 Clubhouse Trail. Highlands, NC 28741 or call for an appointment at 828-526-5251.

**CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS** seeking a courtesy officer. Benefits, pre-employment drug screening and background check. EOE. Apply in person at 64 Clubhouse Trail. Highlands, NC 29741. (828) 526-5251.

**CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS** seeking a maintenance helper. Benefits, pre-employment drug screening and background check. EOE. Apply in person at 64 Clubhouse Trail. Highlands, NC 29741. (828) 526-5251.

**PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT** needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full time position available Monday through Friday. Must be North Carolina certified. One year experience in hospital setting and CPR certification is

preferred. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

**DIRECTOR OF NURSING** is needed in the beautiful mountains of Western North Carolina. Experienced nurse leader for a 24 bed Critical Access Hospital, responsible for managing a budget, quality of patient care, customer satisfaction, and the oversight of management for the Acute Care Unit (Med/Surg), ER, OR, PACU and GI Lab, Hospice, and Cardio-Pulmonary. Must be able to provide leadership for managers and staff, and conduct recruitment and retention activities. Masters degree with a background in nursing leadership required. This position reports directly to the CEO/President of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, working closely with the QA Nurse Manager and the VP of Operations. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

**RESPIRATORY THERAPIST** at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full-time position with 8 and 12 hour shifts. Responsibilities include taking call and being able to respond within 20 minutes. Also must be able to intubate a patient. Current registration or certification in North Carolina, along with current BCLS and/or ACLS required. Experience with rehabilitation and disease prevention preferred. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources 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 Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online 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 Human Resources, 828-526-1301 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

**EMERGENCY ROOM RN'S** needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. One Full-time and two Part-time positions available. 12 hour night shifts. Shift and weekend differentials. BCLS and ACLS required. 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 Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

## WORK WANTED

**HOME DUTY SITTER** available for elderly, caring, experienced with references. Please call for hours available and specifics. Denise - 369-3813

**EXPERIENCED FINISH CARPENTER:** Call Alfredo at 828-349-1590. You can also call the International Friendship Center to see how we can help! 828-526-9938 x 290

**CLEANING OR RESTAURANT WORK  
WANTED:** Contact Gloria at 828-371-5806. You can also call the International Friendship Center to see how we can help! 828-526-9938 x 290.

**LOOKING FOR A HOUSEKEEPER?** Call Dora at 828-200-1038. Call Janet at 828-399-9693 or 828-526-9709. Luz Maria at 349-2735. Cira at 349-1838. Erica at 864-886-9986. You can also call the International Friendship Center to see how we can help! 828-526-9938 x 290

**EXPERIENCED TRUCK DRIVER SEEKS  
FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT:** Call Mike at 828-524-4052. You can also call the International Friendship Center to see how we can help! 828-526-9938 x 290.

## FOR RENT

**1 BEDROOM, 1 BATH,** Furnished Apt. 1 1/2 miles from downtown. \$700 a month plus utilities & satellite. Call 828-526-3612 or 526-4598.

**BUILDING FOR LEASE,** Hearthstone Center, Hwy 64 in Cashiers, 2,052 sq feet, great retail office location, plenty of parking, Call (828) 243-2939 or (828) 743-9454 for more information.

**REAT 3 BED/2 BATH HOME IN MIRROR  
LAKE** area, less than 1 mile from Main Street. Available monthly/weekly Call 770-977-5692.

**ONE BR/ONE BATH FURNISHED  
APARTMENT** close to town including all utilities except phone. \$750. Contact Tucker or Jeannie Chambers, The Chambers Agency, REALTORS. 828-526-3717.

**BED/1BATH** 900sq.ft. \$825/month includes utilities. \$300 deposit. Unfurnished. Non-smoker preferred. Walking distance to town. (828) 526-9494

**RETAIL/ OFFICE SPACE** - 800 - 3,000 Sq Ft. Located in Highlands Plaza. Entrances on Hwy. 28 & 106. Great Visibility. High Traffic. Abundant Parking. Reasonable Terms. Best location in town. Call 864-630-0808 for info.

**3 BEDROOM-2 BATH APARTMENT** on Main Street. 526-0388.

**MAIN ST APT-** available now spacious 1/1 with full kitchen, fully furnished, central heat/air, small pets OK, \$700 mo. 1st/last+ \$350 deposit. 526-3363

**ON MIRROR LAKE** - Charming 3 bed, 2 bath. Huge sunroom, stone fireplace, 3 decks, canoe, furnished. Available Nov-May. \$1500 a month plus utilities. Call 770-435-0678.

**COTTAGE FOR RENT** - 1BR, 1BA in town @ Chestnut Cottages. Private, screen porch, Heat/AC, FP, extra sleeping loft, furnished or unfurnished. 6 month lease - \$750. monthly plus

utilities. Call 526-1684.

## VACATION RENTAL

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

**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

**LOT FOR SALE,** .90 acre, drive graded, 2 bed septic approved, Shared well, off Turtle Pond and Dendy Orchard Road, 4 miles from center of town \$39,000. Call Ty at 828-577-9261

**SCALY MOUNTAIN** Building lots, views, creeks, wooded. 2-5 acres, start at \$150,000 by owner, owner financing available. (404) 831-0222 or gonzobean@aol.com. 3/6/08

**LOTS FOR SALE IN SHELBY PLACE.** \$110,000 each. Call 828-526-2874.

**MOUNT VERON, SOUTH GEORGIA** -- 126.88 +/- acres. 4 BR/3BA, home, creek, lake. \$460,000. Call: 478-552-6677 or 706-401-9035. Taylor Group Realty. [www.landofgeorgia.com](http://www.landofgeorgia.com)

**TENNILLE, CENTRAL GEORGIA** - 58.71 acres. 5 BR/3.5 BA, brick home, 7-board fencing, barn pecan orchard. 11-acre lake. \$799,000. Call: 478-552-6677 or 678-313-5090. [www.landofgeorgia.com](http://www.landofgeorgia.com)

**UPPER CLEAR CREEK ROAD AT COR-  
NET LANE** 1.20+ acres less than 4 miles to Main Street. Paved Access. Some winter views 3 sided corner lot has old logging road as your driveway. \$62,500 Call 526-9021 or 787-2307.

**BUCK CREEK:** 1600 sq.ft. finished basement, creek front. Handicapped accessible w/elevator; 3 BR 2 large BA. \$329,000. 828-524-6038

**IN TOWN** - 3 bedroom, 2 bath, stream, large level yard. Easy walk to Main Street. \$450,000, by owner. Call 828-226-6123. 12/21

**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 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.

**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, FLOR.**

## • CLASSIFIEDS •

**IDA** – 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.

**NC, OTTO, 38 ACRES** 10 miles from Georgia State line, high elevation, big views, driveway and homesite cleared call owner, 770-952-9100

**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.

### ITEMS FOR SALE

Barely used 30GB Zune Video MP3 Player. Comes with leather case. \$150 or best offer. Call Davis at 828-526-9152 for more information.

**SEARS WASHER & DRYER.** Washer, 3 years and older dryer. Both in excellent working condition. \$275 for BOTH. 526-3647.

**BALDWIN ACROSONIC PIANO** Excellent condition. \$300. Call 743-5151.

**TWO SIT-ON TOP KAYAKS.** Orange. Paddles included. \$500 for both. Call Lisa at 770-842-3784.

**THREE "HOUSE OF DENMARK" BOOKCASES** -- walnut, 3' x 6', containing TV, tape player, turn table, radio/CD. Sold as an entertainment unit including 2 Advent speakers. \$550. Call 526-9273.

**ANTIQUA FURNITURE FOR SALE.** Double size spool bed \$300. Queen Anne sofa, 2 side chairs and rocking chair \$1,000. Will sell separately. Call Bob at SweetTreats 828 526-9822 or 828 369-6263.

**2 BATHROOM LAVATORIES** with brass faucets; 1 water closet - all almond finish \$25.00 each; 1 steno chair - black with mustard color back and seat \$15. 526-2671

**MISC. ITEMS** – Play Station 2 \$75; Old Walt Disney movies (never opened); Indoor plants; Girls' bicycle; Collectible Basketball Cards (never opened). Call 526-9123.

**SNOW TIRES** For Ford Expedition 03-05 factory rims. Complete set of 4 only \$400. Size 17 x 75 J. Call Wolfgang at 526-8396.

**POOL TABLE** – Peter Vitalie 8' x 50" pool table, burl wood rails, upgrades leather pockets, new upgraded felt – oak in color – \$3,400. Table located in Cashiers, Call 770-313-0899.

**BARBOUR COAT** Burghley Duster. \$350. Call 526-9027.

**MASSEY FERGUSON DIESEL DELUXE 35 WITH POWER STEERING.** Completely rebuilt, repainted, new tires. Includes scrape blade, and an 8,000 lbs. tandem axle trailer. Sharp Package! \$7,500. Call (828)526-1684 and leave message.

**SEIL BUNK BED SET** – Very Nice Desk; One 11X15 rug, Lt. in color, very good condition; Mountain Bike w/car carrier, helmet. Call 828-526-4064.

**ANTIQUA ORNATE WALNUT** Victorian gold velvet sofa and blue chair. Call 369-0498 and leave message.

**BEAMS, FLOORING AND ENTIRE STRUCTURES: HAND HEWN BEAMS.** Beautiful material, large faces, \$3.50-\$4.50 per board foot. Wormy white oak flooring (milled w/ a t&g), 6-12" widths, \$8.00 per ft. Original, reclaimed

white and yellow pine flooring, random wide widths (6-16") \$6/board ft. Wide barn siding, \$3/ft. Also historic log cabins and barns ready to reassemble. 215-529-7637. Delivery available.

**DINING ROOM TABLE & 8 CHAIRS** – (7 w/o leaves) Great for Mountain Home. Nearly New. Good Condition. Leather & Upholstered chairs. \$1,000. Call Linda at 526-1517.

**KING-SIZE HEADBOARD,** \$40; new glass fireplace screen, (still in box,) polished brass finish, fits fireplace opening Height 24 3/4" - 29 3/4". Width 30" to 37 1/2," \$125. Call 828-371-2999

**MEDICAL LIFT CHAIR** – Used one week. Paid \$615, asking \$500. 526-5558.

**ANTIQUA CHERRY DINING TABLE** from Estate Sale. Double drop-leaf. Rope carved legs. Seats 4-10 people Extends to 4x10 ft \$1,500 obo 828-787-1515

**DOG KENNEL.** 10' x 10' x 6', heavy gauge chainlink. Like New. \$175, was \$270. call 828.389.2722 Hayesville, NC

**DELUXE VENTED GAS** heater high btu, slightly used, \$100. 524-6038.

**CUSTOM DECK SET** – Painted aluminum Love seat & club chair with laminated waverly cushions. \$125. Call 526-1078.

**ANTIQUA 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 structures. 215-529-7637 ([www.jcwoodworking.info](http://www.jcwoodworking.info))

**BEAUTIFUL FLOORING:** Wormy white oak flooring, resawn, milled and ready to lay w/ t&g, 6-12" widths, \$8/sq. ft. 215-529-7637

**LOG CABIN KIT** – 32 x 24 8 1/2 inch yellow Pine logs. Walls only. \$9,999. Call 526-0241.

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

**SLEEPER SOFA** – Neutral Plaid. Like New. \$145. Call 864-972-8525.

**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.

### VEHICLES FOR SALE

**2003 VOLKSWAGON JETTA GLS SEDAN** – 4-door, 5-speed, AC, Power Everything. Cruise, Premium Sound System, Moon Roof, Leather Seats, 85,000 miles. \$10,500. Call 526-3606.

**2002 TOYOTA TACOMA TRUCK** – Good Condition. 67,000 miles, new battery, wipers, tires. \$7,000. 828-526-2416.

**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.

### SERVICES

**KNITTING INSTRUCTIONS** – in my home – \$10 a session. Call 787-2307.

**AFFORDABLE HOME IMPROVEMENT** – Tile, Painting, Decks, Siding, Repairs Etc. Licensed & Insured General Contractor For Estimates call Scott @ 828-577-9261

**FIREWOOD** "Nature Dried" Call 526-2251.  
**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.

**TREE SERVICE** – From view clearing to the most complicated tree removal, under brushing, stump removal/grinding/brush chipping/hauling and storm clean-up. 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.

**SHIPPING SERVICES - STORK'S WRAP, PACK & SHIP** UPS Ground & Next Day Air services and large furniture shipping available. Packing services and/or supplies. Gift wrapping and fax services. 323 Hwy 107 N., Cashiers, NC (1/2 mile from crossroads) (828) 743-3222.

**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, Asheville, scenic tours, parks, special occasions, restaurant trips, auto delivery. Town Car. Call 828-524-0424 or cell (239)-292-3623. 10/25

### BUSINESSES FOR SALE

**HIGHLANDS RADIO SHACK IS FOR SALE!** Own a successful year-round business on Main Street. Asking \$399,000. Call Thea or Chuck at 828-526-3350.

### WANTED

**WHITE MALE, AGE 48,** looking for female companion, cook. Call Donny. 706-335-6496 or write P.O. Box 411, Ila, GA 30647.1/24/08

### LOST

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- Complete line of office supplies
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**526-3379**  
**FAX: 526-3309**

**Needlepoint of Highlands**

*Barbara B. Cusachs*

**828-526-3907**  
**1-800-526-3902**

**LOST DOG IN BUCK CREEK/SHORTOFF RD AREA.** Australian Shepherd. Blue Merle. Female. No tale. No Collar. Needs seizure medicine. Reward. Call 704-560-2911 or 704-365-9614.

**LOST DOG "SALTY"** – Black and white female Lab mix. Medium-size. Missing from around Owl Gap Road on N.C. 106. Please call 828-526-4575.

## ... COACH'S CORNER continued from page 2

tournament. I had forgotten just how far from civilization it was out there on my way to the Barn (as we used to affectionately refer to Eagle Gymnasium out there).

As I walked in to the comforting sounds of banjo music (I'm not making this up -- the Eagles warm up to banjo music) it brought back a lot of high school memories. As for the game — the young Highlanders have come a long way since I saw them back in November. They started strong out of the gate and held on at the end to beat the Eagles by 8 points.

Coach Smart has done a fantastic job as usual with a team that is very young, and beating the Eagles on their home court is no easy task. While the Highlanders had an 18-point lead at one point -- this was no blowout. The Eagles made a strong run in the second half, cutting the lead to 5 at one point, but the Highlanders kept their composure and were able to remain calm despite adverse conditions.

These qualities, coming from a young team in particular, are a direct reflection of the head coach -- and there are none better than Coach Smart.

# • UPCOMING EVENTS •

## Through Friday

- Spring Soccer Registration at Highlands Recreation Park from 5-7 p.m. Cost is \$40 for fall registered players, \$50 for new or non-registered players. The season is April through June. Games will be played on Sunday afternoons. Age divisions are determined by the child's age as of July 31, 2007. All new players need a copy of a birth certificate. For more information, call Christy Weller at 526-9931.

## On-going

- Cardio Dance Class. \$5 per class, MWF at 8:30 am @ the Rec Park (downstairs).
- Yoga at the Rec Park, 7:30 a.m Monday and Wednesdays. Call 526-4340 for information.
- Yoga in the bottom floor of Jane Woodruff Building. 10:30 a.m. Thursdays. Call 526-4340.
- NA open meeting every Saturday at 7:30 p.m. of the ACC Satellite 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.
- 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, 10 a.m. until noon. 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.

## Ruby Cinemas

Hwy. 441, Franklin • 524-2076

### Feb. 22-28

#### VANTAGE POINT rated PG-13

Fri: (4:05), 7:05, 9:05  
Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:05), 7:05, 9:05  
Mon - Thurs: (4:05), 7:05

#### JUMPER rated PG-13

Fri: (4:15), 7:15, 9:15  
Sat & Sun: (2:15), (4:15), 7:15, 9:15  
Mon - Thurs: (4:15), 7:15

#### THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES rated PG

Fri: (4), 7, 9  
Sat & Sun: (2), (4), 7, 9  
Mon - Thurs: (4), 7

#### FOOL'S GOLD rated PG-13

Fri: (4:10), 7:10, 9:10  
Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:10), 7:10,  
9:10  
Mon - Thurs: (4:10), 7:10

## 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

- Adult handbell rehearsals at Highlands United Methodist Church at 6 p.m. If you're interested in playing but can't be here this Wednesday please let Carroll Harris know. 526-3376.
- Gospel of John Bible Study Pastor Todd Struble is leading a study this spring on the fourth Gospel (using the Efid Bible Study Series) Wednesday Supper begins at 5:30 with the Bible Study at 6:15 - 7:15.

- Highlands MountainTop Rotary Club meets at the Highlands Conference Center at 7:30 a.m.

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

## 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

- Al-Anon Meetings, noon in the First Presbyterian Church basement at Fifth & Main Street.

## Every Friday

- The Girls' Clubhouse meets in the school 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.

## 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.

## Thursday, Feb. 21

- Pescado's Dinner to benefit Highlands School 5th Grade to help raise funds for their trip to Charleston, S.C., from 5-8 p.m.

- Health Tracks Open House, featuring a light buffet lunch to kick-off its new Heart Smart program. Heart Smart mini fair at Highlands Civic Center from noon to 2 p.m. For more information on the month's events, call HealthTracks at (828) 526-1FIT (1348), Monday through Friday during regular business hours.

## Friday and Saturday, Feb. 22-23

- Highlands' Patrick Taylor will be a conducting a workshop on Southern Folk Art and the Bible at a conference led by Barbara Brown Taylor, the Butman Professor of Religion at Piedmont College. The conference entitled, "The Bible and the Christ-Haunted South," will be held at the Piedmont College Athens Campus. Registration information can be obtained from the Piedmont College website at

## Tickets for 'Tenor' now available

Season subscribers, you're first. On Thursday and Friday, Feb. 21-22, the Highlands Community Players' box office, 828-526-8084, is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Individual tickets will be available Saturday, Feb. 23, through Saturday, March 8, same number, same location, same times. Sundays the box office will open an hour before the 2:30 matinees.

The play, *Lend Me a Tenor*, is a comedy — definitely — one of playwright Ken Ludwig's best. No tears in this one, just a lot of fun with colorful characters, colorful costumes, clever plot, romance, mix-ups, happy ending, and a bit of singing (though it's not a musical). The play is rated PG13, as there are a few adult situations.

World famous tenor Tito Merelli, played by Wayne Coleman, is scheduled to sing at a gala fundraiser for the Cleveland Grand Opera. Opera manager Henry Saunders (Bob Tietze) orders his assistant Max (Stuart Armor) to keep a close eye on Merelli, known



Costume designers Barbara Werder and Joan Levinson fitting the Othello costume for Wayne Coleman, who plays an opera star in HCP's "Lend Me a Tenor," opening Thursday, Feb. 28 at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands. For reservations, call 828-526-8084.

for his drinking and his delight in the fairer sex who delight in him as well. Even Max's girl friend, played by Breta Stroud, is all agog in the presence of the great one.

Shortly before the performance, it appears that Merelli will not be able to go on, and the wild scramble to find another tenor to replace him is hilarious.

*Lend Me a Tenor* is directed by Annette Cole-

man, and sponsored, in part, by WHLC-Radio. Rounding out the cast are Diane Rosazza playing Tito's wife; Carla Gates, a soprano scheduled to sing with Tito; Jody Read, chairman of the Opera Guild; and Dean Zuch, a bellhop.

Opening night is Thursday, Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m. The performance is followed by a complimentary reception, catered by Holly Roberts' "Kitchen," for audience, cast, and production team. The show runs through Sunday, March 9, evenings at 7:30 p.m., Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m.

www.piedmont.edu.

## Friday, Feb. 22

- Improv has returned to the Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main with an all new show, ITC LIVE!, and playing every Friday and Saturday night at 8 p.m. in February. For tickets and further information please call the ITC box office at 828-342-9197.

## Saturday, Feb. 23

- Improv has returned to the Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main. with an all new show, ITC LIVE!, and playing every Friday and Saturday night at 8 p.m. in February. For tickets and further information please call the ITC box office at 828-342-9197.

- Highlands Annual Chili Cook-off, Salsa, & Cornbread Competition is scheduled for Saturday from 6:30-9:30 pm. at the Community Building.

- Free Health Tracks Mini Fair at the Cashiers Community Library from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information on the month's events, call HealthTracks at (828) 526-1FIT (1348), Monday through Friday during regular business hours.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3.5 mile hike to Whiteside Mountain and the Devil's Courthouse with an elevation change of 250 feet. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. or the Whiteside parking lot at 9:45 a.m. Drive 10 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.

## Monday & Tuesday, Feb. 25-26

- Southwestern Community College's Small Business Center will present ServSafe from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Bradford Hall Room 100 at the Jackson Campus. This National Restaurant Associate-approved course will cover all aspects of safe food handling in a food service environment. Registration deadline for the course is Friday, Feb. 8. The cost of the course is \$55, with a \$99 materials fee. Interested participants can call the Small Business Center at 828-488-6413.

## Monday, Feb. 25

- The Art League of Highlands monthly

## • UPCOMING EVENTS •

meeting noon at the Rec Park. After a light lunch there will be a meeting and program with lifetime members J.Jay Joannides on encaustic wax painting -- an ancient medium dating back to the Egyptians. The public is invited for the special presentation. For more information, call Randy Laws at 526-9245.

### Tuesday, Feb. 26

• HIARPT morning discussions are 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center with lunch to follow for those interested. All are welcome to attend, although we do ask that the material to be discussed be read prior to the discussions. For additional information, please contact Creighton Peden 526-4038.

• "Once a Soldier" by David Craig. Magazine of Columbia University, Fall 2007, pp. 25-29. Will be circulated at previous meetings. Co-ordinator: Carole Light.

• "Take Charge of Your Health" Lecture series by Cashiers-Highlands Chiropractic & Acupuncture presents a lecture series -- "Cholesterol - good fats, bad fats, essential oils - oh my! All lectures are FREE and held at Cashiers Chiropractic & Wellness in Laurel Terrace just east on U.S. 64 from the crossroads. Please call 828-743-9070 or 828-526-3709 to make a reservation.

### Wednesday, Feb. 27

• High Mountain Squares will dance this Wednesday at the Macon County Community Building from 7-9 p.m. Rudy Saunders of Monroe, GA. will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344, 706-782-0943.

### Thurs.-Sun., Feb. 28-March 2

• HCP's "Lend Me a Tenor" at the Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Sunday matinee. For ticket information call, the Highlands Community Players' box office, 828-526-8084

### Saturday, March 1

• Yard Sale to benefit Highlands 5th grade trip to Charleston, 8 a.m. to noon at the Episcopal Church at 5th & Main streets. Many great and fun items, plus baked goods, sausage biscuits, and raffle tickets for amazing prizes.

• Highlands Rotary Monte Carlo Night 6:30 at the Community Building. Tickets are \$50 per person and include gaming chips, hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. Tickets are available at Highlands Recreation Park, Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Highlands Decorating Center. For more information please contact Derek Taylor at 526-3571 or Jodie Cook at 526-0001.

### Thursday, March 6

• NAMI Appalachian South will hold an organizational meeting with a brief program at the home of Mary Ann Widenhouse, 24 Cardinal Lane, Otto. Directions: Follow 441 South to Firehouse Rd. (Otto Community Building and Fire Station). Turn right on Cardinal Lane off Firehouse Road. Call Ann 828 369-7385 or Mary Ann 828 524-1355 for information.

### Friday-Sunday, March 7-9

• HCP's "Lend Me a Tenor" at the Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Sunday matinee. For ticket information call, the Highlands Community Players' box office, 828-526-8084.

### Friday, March 7

• Bingo at the Highlands Community Building from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

### Starting Monday, March 10

• Family-to-Family free 12-week Education Program will be offered by NAMI Appalachian South at Southwestern Community College, Macon campus from 6:30-9 p.m. The class is for family members of loved ones with a mental illness. NAMI Appalachian South is an affiliate of the state National Alliance on Mental Illness. Please contact Ann Nandrea 828 369-7385 or Mary Ann Widenhouse 828-524-1355 to register or for more information. Some comments from previous participants: "Valuable information about Brain Disorders," "Let me know that I am not alone." "Learned more about coping." "That there is help and hope."

### Thursday, March 13

• Highlands School PTO and fundraiser at 6 p.m.

### Tuesday, March 18

• Hunting Heritage Super Fund Auction and Dinner will help benefit the National Wild Turkey Conservation at 6 p.m. at the Dillard House Conference Center in Dillard, GA. All ticket holders are eligible to win prizes and lots of items will be auctioned off. Tickets are \$55 and help support wildlife management on public, private and corporate lands and preserve hunting as sport.

### Sunday, March 25

• First Presbyterian Church will host an old-fashioned hymn-sing at 4 p.m. Those attending may choose a hymn from the 1938 Cokesbury Hymnal. The song leader will be Stell Huie and Angie Jenkins will play the piano.

### April 20-30

• Highlands United Methodist Church trip to the Holy Land Trip: Please speak with Pastor Mike or Pastor Todd for more details.

### Friday & Saturday, July 11-12

• Bascom-Louise Gallery's annual "Mountains in Bloom" Garden Festival and will feature a two-day exhibit of some of the prettiest plants, flowers and trees grown by area residents and visitors. For more information, call Donna Woods, Bascom-Louise Gallery's events director, at (828) 526-0207.

### Thursday-Sunday, Nov. 13-16

• Grab your calendar and block the dates! Highlands Second Annual Culinary Weekend is set to take place.

## Rotary's Monte Carlo Night is March 1

After Valentine's Day the Queen of Heart's next Highlands appearance will be on Monte Carlo Night, Sat. March 1. Match the elegant Lady with an Ace and get a stake on the auction items donated by local merchants and country clubs.

Patrons will receive a cache of chips to wager on games of chance, skill and sometimes luck - Roulette, Black Jack, Craps, and Texas Hold'em. Dress is casual, Vegas or Monte Carlo style - your choice - but come for an evening of fun, luck and laughs.

Dance with Lady Luck and then change your Monte Carlo chips (cash, checks and credit cards also accepted) into unique merchandise, golf packages and just clever stuff at the live auction called by auctioneer Dennis Hall.

Monte Carlo Night, sponsored by the Highlands Rotary Club, has been a tradition in Highlands for many years. The roulette wheel begins spinning at 6:30 in the Highlands Community Building. Proceeds benefit the Highlands community.

Tickets are \$50 per person and include gaming chips, hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. Tickets are available at Highlands Recreation Park, Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Highlands Decorating Center.

For more information please contact Derek Taylor at 526-3571 or Jodie Cook at 526-0001.

## Super Fives Rotary Bingo - March 7



The next Super Fives Rotary Bingo will be on Friday, March 7 at the Highlands Community Building from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Super Fives features a final Super Bingo game prize of \$500 for a full card Bingo in 55 number calls or less - \$250 if more than 55 calls. What does Rotary Bingo cost? New deal here too! Ten bucks gets you one card for the first fourteen games. Want to play more than one card? - just one dollar per card per game. The Super Bingo game is this same price for all the cards you want. How much can I win? January's Super Five Bingo paid \$30-\$45 for regular Bingo. Actual amount paid depends upon the number of players per game - the more players the higher the prize. Super Fives Rotary Bingo is family oriented with children and grandchildren welcome to an evening of fun, humor, socializing and Bingo. Refreshments provided by Scouting. At least half of the money paid for Bingo games is awarded as prize money. Highlands Rotary Club donates its proceeds to local non-profit organizations. Highlands Rotary Club is licensed by the State of North Carolina to operate Bingo.

## ... ZONING continued from page 1

pearance Commission's requests, except for the stone.

Town Zoning Director Joe Cooley said the ATM will require one parking space and there is enough parking in the plaza to accommodate the ATM requirement.

Finding the use won't endanger public health or safety, that it meets all required conditions and specifications, that it won't substantially injure the value of adjoining property, and its location and character will be in harmony with the area, the SUP was granted.

The ATM will sit next to the corner of the Highlands Plaza building at Second Street within the Plaza.

### Highlands Storage Village

The board also issued a SUP for Phase II of Highlands Storage Village on U.S. 64 east in the B5-EIJ zone.

With 56% of building one occupied, owner Bucky Meredith is ready to secure financing and begin construction of the two final buildings in the complex.

During the construction phase, a temporary entrance will be used and upon

completion will be replaced. Total construction is expected to be completed by Dec. 31, 2009. Building two is expected to be completed by the end of the month and building three is expected to be completed by March 2009.

Construction techniques will be the same as building one - that of a metal building, but instead of an embedded stone exterior, all recycled material will be used. "This will be what you consider a "green" building," said Meredith.

• See ZONING page 16

### ... ZONING continued from page 15

Colors will be lighter than what's on building one but will be in accordance with the town's color chart.

Yard lights will be mounted under two-foot eaves to illuminate downward.

Landscaping on building one will be completed this spring.

#### **Highlands Plaza**

Prior to leaving the Zoning Board for the Town Board race, member Buz Dotson requested detailed plans of Highlands Plaza.

At Wednesday's meeting, the board received a complete Highlands Plaza site plan drawn to scale labeling and delineating property lines, neighboring properties, ad-

acent streets, existing or proposed structures, a show of setbacks, the number of parking spaces and layout, and an indication of utilities and natural features.

Cooley also reported that the owners of Highlands Plaza have been notified by letter that the stucco façade affixed during last year's renovations has put the plaza out of compliance. The owners can opt to change it, appeal to the Zoning Board or

go to the Superior Court of Macon County to settle the matter.

#### **Old Edwards Hospitality Group**

OEI representatives have been issued a zoning certificate to remove the buildings at the Old Creek Lodge site. They will return for a permit for new construction once removal is complete.

OEI has also been issued a permit for

•See ZONING page 18

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• BUSINESS NEWS •

## The Economic Impact of Travel on North Carolina Counties

*County Spending by Overnight Visitors Increases by 8.4 percent to \$111.16 million*

Visitors to Macon County spent \$111.16 million in 2006, an increase of 8.4 percent from 2005.

"This significant increase in spending by visitors to Highlands and Macon County clearly demonstrates the continuing popularity of our community and the surrounding area as a vacation destination," said Bob Kieltyka, Executive Director of the Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center.

Tourism impact highlights for 2006:

- The travel and tourism industry directly employs more than 1,150 people in Macon County.

- Total payroll generated by the tourism industry in Macon County was \$21.07 million.

- State tax revenue generated in Macon County totaled \$5.18 million through state sales and excise taxes and

taxes on personal and corporate income. Some \$9.41 million in local taxes were generated from sales and property tax revenue from travel-generated and travel-supported businesses.

Governor Mike Easley announced at the Annual Governor's Conference on tourism in March that visitors to North Carolina spent a record \$15.4 billion in 2006, an increase of 8.3 percent from 2005 and the largest single year increase since tracking began in 1990. The number was also higher than the national average which was 7.7 percent.

"The tourism industry is a key to our state's economic well being and I am committed to maintaining our position as one of the top travel destinations in the country," Easley said.

These statistics are from the 2006 Economic Impact of Travel on North Caroli-

na Counties. The study was prepared for the North Carolina Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development by the Travel Industry Association of America.

Statewide highlights include:

- 2006 total domestic visitor spending saw an increase of 8.3 percent to \$15.4 billion up from \$14.2 billion in 2005.

- The travel and tourism industry directly employs more than 187,000 North Carolinians.

- The tourism industry generated a total of more than \$1.3 billion in tax revenues. State tax revenue totaled \$797 million through state sales and excise taxes, and taxes on personal and corporate income. Some \$496 million in local taxes were generated from sales and property tax revenue from travel-generated and travel-supported businesses.



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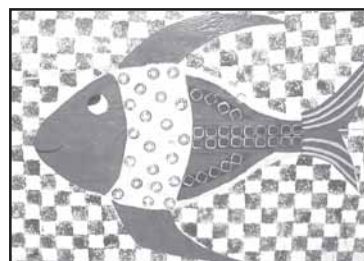
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## ... WELLS continued from page 1

\$181,332 annually to operate but will be covered by permitting fees, said Patterson.

"This is an unfunded mandate but the program can be sustained with a fee," he said. The proposed fee for the PDWW program is \$375 per inspection. "The fee was determined on the actual cost of operating the program," he said.

The Environmental Services arm of the Health Department has five certified wastewater employees whose main jobs are septic permits. Bruckner said the idea is to have all seven employees cross-trained so all aspects are covered.

"We're just afraid it's going to turn into another septic field fiasco," said Commissioner Ronnie Beale.

Patterson said septic tank permits are about on track. "It's about to a three-week process now," he said.

Employees with the health department must work with the four or five well-drilling companies in the county which is why Patterson and Bruckner asked for two employees.

"It will take additional permitting steps after the well is drilled and we will have to meet them onsite," said Patterson.

The health department must now verify the depth, verify the grouting is done properly, and test for various metals and bacteria among other things and send the results to the state.

He said the state is saying it will take 48 to 72 hours for the it to return results on the metals and bacteria samplings.

"We can't cap the well until they've been out there, so they have to be 'Johnny on the spot' said Fred Crane with Crane Brothers Well Drilling.

Commissioner Bob Simpson asked what guarantee Patterson and Bruckner could offer that the well drillers wouldn't be left waiting on the job for their arrival.

Patterson said it will take communication on both ends. He said a call a couple

of hours prior to a job would enable his staff to be scheduled properly and arrive when it's time to do the testing.

Crane questioned the need for extra staffing when he said he can supply the same information, but Chairman Charlie Leatherman said the county was bound by state regulations. "Are you guys willing to work with us?" he asked. "Do you understand this is something we have to do?" Crane said he and others in the business would certainly work with the county and did understand the county's position.

In the end the commission voted 3-2 to fund the two PDWW positions. Commissioner Simpson and Beale voted against the request.

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## ... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 10

woman, but with all whom she shares her excitement.

During this Lenten Season we all tend to try and "give up" something. Have you given up something? Are you still thirsting? Are you drinking from the well? Are you thirsty? Has your thirst been truly quenched lately? Our prayer for you during this Lenten Season is that you will remember the woman at the well and Jesus' offer to her and all she knew. He knew her inside and out just as he knows you. He understands the thirst and hunger you have. He makes the same offer to you

that he made to her. Jesus offers all who come to him living water. Take a drink from the well. Let Jesus refresh your life, your family and this village as we share the good news of the Messiah.

## ... ZONING continued from page 16

interior remodeling in the old part of the inn where some bedrooms are being enlarged.

### RiverWalk

Ward reported that RiverWalk is in good standing – the site has been stabilized and the trout stream buffer has been restored as required by the state's Department of Water Quality.

At the Feb. 25 Planning Board meeting at 5 p.m., the board will review RiverWalk's final plat for phase three.

## "Heart of the High Country"

Highlands' Own  
TV Show...on Northland  
Cable Channel 14.



Everyday at 8 a.m., noon, 5 p.m.,  
7 p.m., 10 p.m., & midnight.  
The Visitor Information Program  
airs at 7 am, 9 am, 4 pm, 6 pm,  
9 pm, and 11 pm.

## Armor for Congress



Photo by Kim Lewicki  
Armor and supporters gathered at High County Cafe recently to kick off his campaign for the 11th District Congressional seat. Fighting crime is just one of his big issues, and he is "running for congress and expecting to win." For more see [www.armorforcongress.com](http://www.armorforcongress.com)

# HIGHLANDS POLICE, FIRE & MACON COUNTY SHERIFF REPORTS

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the weeks of Feb. 13-20. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Feb. 13

- Officers received a call requesting a check on the number of residents living in a home on the Franklin Road. It was determined they were all related.

Feb. 15

- At 9:20 p.m., a motorist at Fourth and Chestnut streets was cited speeding 39 mph in a 25 zone.
- At 10:25 p.m., a motorist at Third and Main streets was cited speeding 38 mph in a 20 zone.

Feb. 16

- At 8:15 p.m., a motorist at Main and Third streets was cited for speeding 34 mph in a 20 zone.
- During the week officers issued 4 warning tickets and responded to one alarm.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Feb. 13-19

Feb. 13

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical

call at a residence on Whiteside Cove Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers but the call was cancelled.

Feb. 19

- The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a business on Main Street. It was false.

Feb. 20

- The dept. assisted in a search for two missing fisherman on the Chattooga River.

The following is the Macon County Sheriff Dept. log entries for the Highlands Township for the week of Feb. 14-20

Feb. 14

- At 6:20 p.m., Juan Carlos Contreras, 20, of Scaly Mountain, was arrested on an outstanding warrant from Habersham County in Georgia for the possession of cocaine.

Feb. 15

- At 7:30 p.m., Miranda Franks Miller, 28, of Lake Toxaway, was arrested for the possession of narcotics, and other drugs, drug paraphernalia and equipment, and possessing amphetamines and methamphetamines. Her vehicle had been stopped for a revoked license tag and no insurance.

## Missing fishermen found Wednesday

Law enforcement and rescue agencies from Macon County, Jackson County and Seneca, S.C., collaborated on a search for two missing fisherman Tuesday and Wednesday of this week.

The two men from Franklin, N.C., went fishing on the Chattooga River at the Bull Pen section early Tuesday, Feb. 19. When they didn't return that night, the authorities were notified.

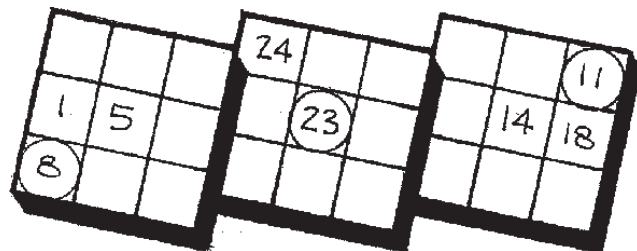
The Macon County Sheriff's Dept. began searching Tuesday night. Other law enforcement agencies joined in early Wednesday morning.

Search and rescue dogs teams from Seneca were requested to aid in the search.

"They went fishing yesterday, stayed a little too late last night and actually got wet at one point so decided to spend the night and walk out today, which was the appropriate thing to do," said Macon County Emergency Director Warren Cabe. "They were located around noon and are fine."

## • FUN & GAMES •

### PseudoCube<sup>©</sup>



# BZ1D - 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 equaling the total of the three center numbers. One of the diagonals is shown with circles.

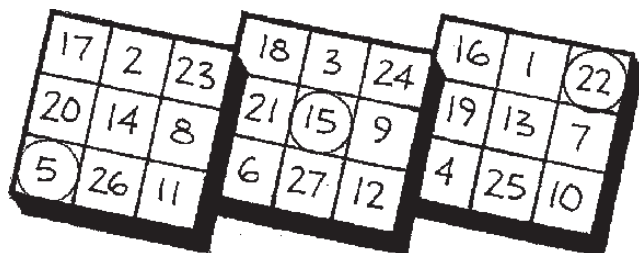
#### THE CHALLENGE:

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 #AN3E in Feb. 14 issue



### N-Cryptoku<sup>©</sup>

**Object:** Assign 9 different letters to each cell of 9 columns and 9 rows. In addition, nine 3 x 3 cells in the layout have the same nine different letters (this is similar to Sudoku but uses nine letters instead of nine numbers). A 'mystery word or phrase' using all nine different letters is designated by circled squares (other short words appear when solving, for which a list of meanings is provided). Every puzzle has a different 'mystery word or phrase' (no spaces).

**How to Solve:** Determine the nine different letters among those given. Try to solve the mystery word using the clue given and write it in. Other small words will appear in the puzzle. As in conventional crossword puzzles, a list of meanings for these ACROSS/ DOWN words is given and number positions shown. Doing them will speed up your solution to the puzzle. Using your powers of induction, inference and insight, place missing letters in all blank squares according to the rules noted above. Focus attention where the least number of letters are needed to complete a line, column or 3 x 3 cell.

**Mystery Word**  
"Radiation Oven"

#### Across

1. River (Sp.) (3)
2. Point towards (3)
3. Verbal argument (3)
4. Undulation (4)
5. Me (Fr.) (3)

#### Down

6. Ship's personnel (4)
7. Read-only memory (abbr.) (3)
8. Upper body limb (3)
9. Company (abb.) (2)
10. Virginia (abb.) (2)

E		O	W		I	C		V
	M			C		I		
7		I			O			A
	E		A		M		R	
	M		C		O		A	
	R				E		O	
		R		A				M
	V		I		R		C	
I	E		W		V		R	

Solution to Feb. 14 puzzle

A	T	R	I	O	F	E	S	V
S	F	I	E	V	R	A	O	T
V	O	E	T	S	A	I	F	R
I	S	O	A	E	T	R	V	F
F	A	V	O	R	I	T	E	S
R	E	T	S	F	V	O	A	I
E	I	S	V	T	O	F	R	A
T	V	F	R	A	E	S	I	O
O	R	A	F	I	S	V	T	E

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## Waterfalls & Day Trips

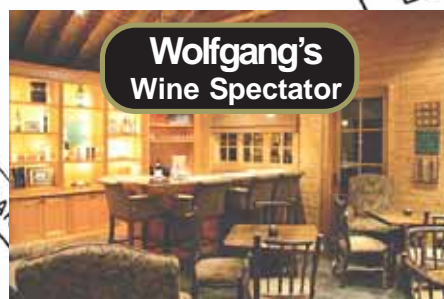
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# 2008 Highlands Map



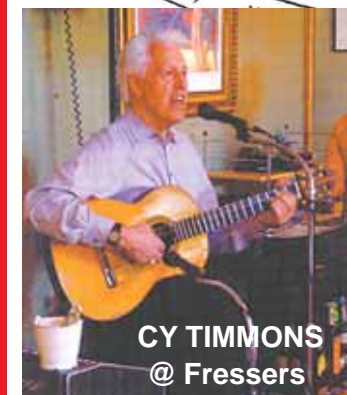
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DINING	Shopping	Real Estate
1 Cyprus	1 Acorns	1 Buyer's
2 Fressers	2 AnnaWear	2 Century 21
3 Golden China	3 Bear Mt. Outfit.	3 Country Club
4 Log Cabin	4 Chintz Antiques	4 John Cleaveland
5 Madison's	5 Dry Sink	5 John Schiffli
6 Oak St Cafe	6 JacksonMadeleine	<b>Galleries</b>
7 Paoletti	7 Raspberry Fizz	1 Bryant Art Glass
8 Pescado's	8 Silver Eagle	2 Tino Gallery
9 Rib Shack	9 Shiraz Rugs	3 Twigs
10 Sports Page	10 Village Kids	4 Scudders
11 Wolfgang's	11 Wholesale Down	5 Summit One

**Performing Arts Center**  
**Community Players**

**Whole Health Market**  
**Civic Center Rec. Park**  
**Pool & Tennis**

**Phillips 66**  
**Fibber Magee's**  
**Mt Findings**

**Cimarron**  
**MovieStop**  
**Brick Oven**  
**Rainy Day Golf**  
**Wayah Insurance**

**MAPLE ST.**  
**Rest Rooms**  
**ATM**  
**Bank**  
**ATM**

**PlayHouse**  
**Police**  
**ABC**  
**Bear Mt Outfitter**  
**Oak St Cafe**  
**Katy's**  
**Scudders**  
**Kilwins**  
**Buck's**

**Shiraz Rugs**  
**Methodist**  
**Town Hall**  
**Carolina Way**  
**ATM**  
**Bank**  
**ATM**

**PINE ST.**  
**Schmitt**  
**All Seasons**  
**Mill Crk Gallery**  
**Needle Point**  
**Catholic**

**OAK ST.**  
**Drug Store**  
**PRO NAILS**  
**Hudson Library**  
**Bascom-Louise Gallery**  
**Episcopal**

**MAIN ST.**  
**Old Edwards Inn & Spa**  
**Acorns**  
**Presbyterian**  
**3 Mt Fresh Foods**  
**2 Century 21**  
**Creative Concepts**

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**1 Jackson Madeleine & Basketcase**  
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