

Highlands' Newspaper FREE

Volume 6, Number 9

PDF Version – www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Feb. 28, 2008

On-going

• Cardio Dance Class. \$5 per calls, 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 Tuesday

• 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. Call Carroll Harris 526-3376.

• Gospel of John Bible Study at the Methodist Church with Pastor Todd Struble using the Efid Bible Study Series at 6:15 - 7:15.

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

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.

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, 526-8084

Friday, Feb. 29

• Blood Drive at Highlands School from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. High school students, teachers and the general public is invited to participate.

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.

• Highlands Rotary Monte Carlo Night 6:30 at the Community Building. Tickets are \$50 per person. Call Derek Taylor at 526-3571 or Jodie Cook at 526-0001.

Thursday, March 6

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

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
42-27°F	49-29°F	50-33°F

Highlands' electrical lines stolen

Copper thieves are on the prowl nationwide and the trend has hit Highlands.

Because copper wire is difficult to link back to a specific company or project, theft has proliferated.

In Muncie, Ind., copper wire thefts from phone towers and landlines has increased the past two years, and cost Verizon about

\$250,000.

In Tampa, Fla., 8,000 feet of signal wire was stolen from railroad tracks.

In Fresno, Calif., thieves took copper wire out of street lights.

In Michigan's Tuscola County, copper wire thieves struck the Dykehouse Pickle Company and the Michigan Sugar Company.

In Highlands, copper wiring,

specifically, a neutral copper line about a mile long on the town's electrical system, was stolen.

Late Wednesday afternoon, a member on the town's electric crew was on his way down Horse Cove Road when he noticed that about a mile of copper line had been cut from the top of Horse Cove Road to Rich Gap Road.

• See STOLEN page 17

Citizens meet to talk about need to expand schools

By Sally Hanson Reporter

About 40 people turned out for the newly-formed Citizens for Community Schools and Quality Education group had its first official meeting Tuesday evening. County Commissioners Charles Leatherman, Jim Davis, and Ronnie Beale were in attendance, as were Board of Education members Roberta Swank and Tommy Cabe.

Before the meeting began, Joey Curtis took a moment to promote the upcoming auction being held by the Academic Foundation on March 8 at Cartoogechaye School. The auction starts at 6 p.m., and will be preceded by a dinner provided by Hog Wild Barbecue at 5 p.m. The Academic Foundation provides mini-grants to teachers throughout the system to help pay for things that are not normally covered for their classrooms.

Curtis also mentioned that Commissioner Leatherman, who is a teacher at Macon Middle School, donates his entire salary supplement each year to the Academic Foundation, and

• See SCHOOLS page 21

'Lend Me a Tenor' opens tonight



Agog with anticipation, Maggie (Breta Stroud), Diana (Carla Gates), and Julia (Jody Read) eagerly await the arrival of the great tenor Tito Merelli (Wayne Coleman) in the Highlands Community Players' comedy "Lend Me a Tenor," Thursday-Sunday and continues Friday and Saturday, March 7 and 8 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, March 9, 2:30 p.m., at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands. Call 526-8084 for reservations. See story on page 18.

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Future land use issues focus of Planning Board mtg.

The Planning Board handled its business issues quickly Monday night and spent the better part of an hour discussing land use priorities.

New business matters involved approval of a lot recombination in the Brushy Face subdivision and final plat approval for RiverWalk subdivision phase 3.

Town Planner Joe Cooley explained that a nonconforming lot – lot 6 – in the Brushy Face subdivision on N.C. 28 was being split down the middle with one half combining with lot 5 and one half combining with lot 7.

"This is OK to do but it has to be signed off by the Planning Board," he said.

The board voted unanimously to allow the recombination.

RiverWalk was pronounced in compliance by Cooley. "The master plan was OK'd as a phased-in project," he explained. "So this is just the final phase of the project."

He said phase 3 had been re-surveyed for accuracy, the master plan had been updated, all the road alignments and utilities were delineated and properly marked on the plat and the erosion was under control.

The board voted unanimously

• See PLANNING page 15

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTER •

Is a tax hike really necessary?

Dear Editor,

For years, we have maintained that Macon County has too much of your money in their bank account. For years, we have been told that we don't understand.

We think we understand that the County doesn't need \$28.4 million in the bank to properly do their business and we pointed out this fact to the Commissioners.

Instead of considering what we had to say, they continue to borrow and promise to raise our taxes. Again, we were told we don't know what we're talking about.

O.K., let's assume they're right. The John Locke Foundation is a think tank that operates in North Carolina and they do know what they're talking about. Using figures that the County supplied to the State Treasurer's office, they concluded,

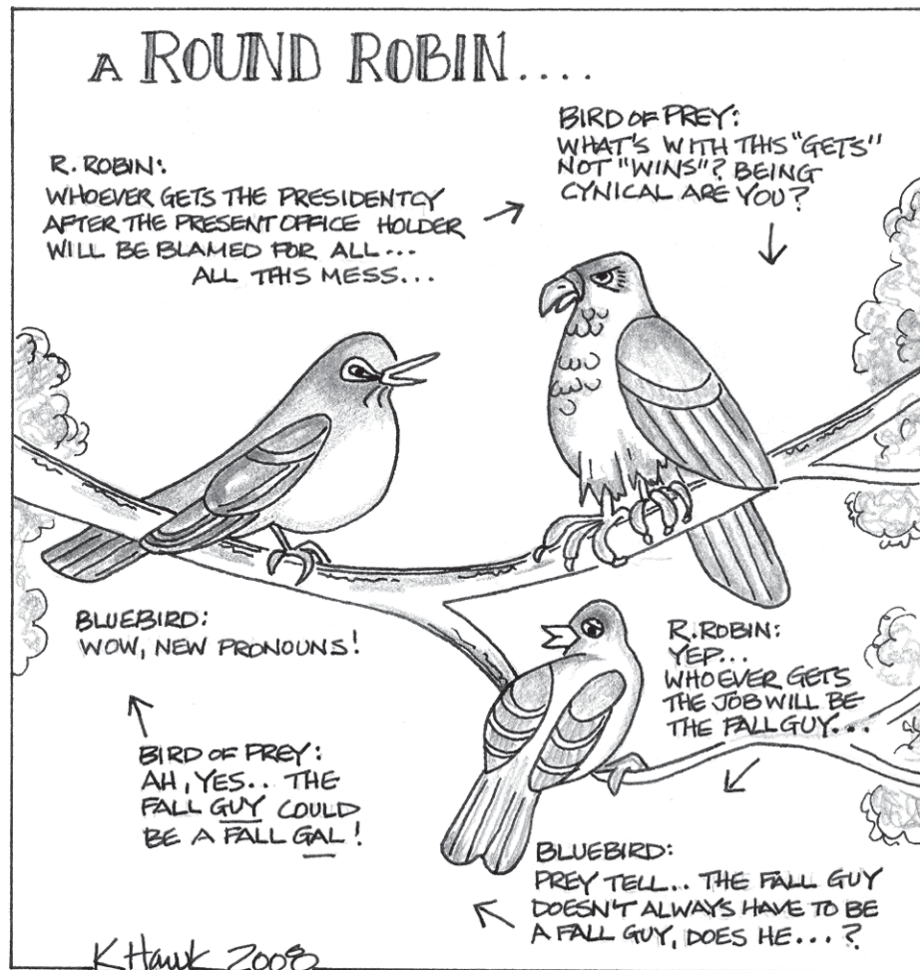
in a brief dated Sept. 27, 2007, "There is plenty of money available to meet Macon County's needs. The last thing the county needs is a tax increase. County spending has not been properly managed or prioritized. Currently," it continues, "about \$21.6 million is available to be spent on high-priority government functions, such as school construction."

Prior to the recent failed referendums, the people were threatened with a tax increase if we didn't bow to the Commission's demands that the bond referendums be passed. They failed to tell us that if they were passed, a tax increase would ensue anyway. When the threats didn't produce the desired effect, we were promised that we would be punished with the tax rate hike. Sure enough,

the County management says that borrowing, which they insist is necessary, will require about a 2.25 mil increase in the next two years and an additional 1.15 mils in the following year.

By my reckoning, this will raise about \$7 million additional tax dollars. Contrary to what the Commissioners may think, we can calculate that, based on information provided to us in the County's annual report, the County has \$6.2 million more in the bank than they themselves agree that is needed. Perhaps rather than raising taxes, they might pay for the increased debt by simply writing a check and reducing the excess accumulated surplus. Since the bank balance increases by an average of \$2

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

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

Highlands' Newspaper

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Email: HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor - Kim Lewicki Cartoonist - Karen Hawk
Reporter - Sally Hanson Circulation & Digital Media
Copy Editor - Tom Merchant Jim Lewicki



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• LETTER •

million a year, payments would be made with no tax increase.

Surely, the voters won't look favorably on a tax increase in an election year, especially one that is not needed. Hopefully, with a new County Manager in place, the dismal record of poor fiscal management will be reversed, and the taxpayers will get the sound, conservative financial policies they pay for.

Don Swanson
Macon FreedomWorks

• THANK YOU'S •

From the Munger Family

The family of Jess Munger wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to the many people who cared for him: Dr. Mark Heffington for many years of care, Dr. David Wheeler and hospital staff for his hospital care and spoiling him.

Thank you to the friends who prayed, sent food, visited, and the flowers. The ladies of Macedonia Baptist church for providing an incredible amount of wonderful food after the service.

Thank you to Pastors Everett Wilson and Walter Wilson for conducting a wonderful service. Thank you to Oliver Rice, Gibby and April for the beautiful music.

Thank you to John Shearl for digging and covering the grave and finally to Bryant Funeral for their usual good job.

Community is blessed

The Lewicki family will forever be indebted to the faculty and staff of the Eckerd Living Center and to Dr. Mark Wagner for the attention and steadfast devotion given to Alex Lewicki. Everyone affiliated with the center is to be commended for the caring they deliver and the love they shower on all the residents day and night.

For the 15 months Alex was a resident there, he was made comfortable and welcomed. In fact, the center became home and the faculty and staff became family which was comforting for him and for us. Dr. Mark Wagner was keenly aware of Alex's needs and capabilities and always treated him with dignity and compassion. He was also patient with us as we tried to understand the effects and finality of the debilitating disease that is Alzheimers. Thank you also, to the Highlands community for the kind words upon Alex's passing and to the Catholic and Methodist churches for the wonderful food.

The Lewicki Family

• See THANK YOUs page 22

• OBITUARIES •

Louise Margaret Clark

Louise Margaret Clark, age 56, of Highlands, NC, died Thursday, February 21, 2008 at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. She was a native of Essex County, New Jersey, the daughter of Walter Asseng, Jr., of Cliffwood Beach, New Jersey and the late Ruth Ziegler Asseng. She was a homemaker and was a volunteer at the hospital gift shop.

She is survived by her husband of 25 years, Wayne Clark; two daughters, Ruthann Edwards of Rabun County, GA and Jennifer Hughes of Lexington Park, Maryland; two sisters, Donna and Ellen and one brother, Walter; three grandchildren also survive.

Memorials may be made to Bolivian Mission, c/o Highlands First Methodist Church, PO Box 1959, Highlands, NC 28741.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. An online obituary is available by visiting www.MeM.com or www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

Alexander Francis Lewicki

Alexander Francis Lewicki, age 87, of Highlands, NC, died Friday, February 22, 2008 at the Eckerd Living Center. He was born in Brooklyn, NY, the son of the late Adam and Stephanie Lewicki. He retired from Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., where he was office manager for 34 years.

He was a member and past vice-commander in the American Legion Charter in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, and was a WWII veteran. He was a member of the Lady of The Mountain Catholic Church in Highlands.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Clara Cetner Lewicki; his two sons, Will-



Alex Lewicki

iam P. Lewicki and his wife Gail of Tracy, California and James M. Lewicki and his wife, Kimberly and two granddaughters, Rachel P. and Megan H. Lewicki all of Highlands.

A service was held at the Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church on Monday, Feb. 25 followed by a graveside ceremony.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The Alzheimers Caregiver Retreat, 125 Hyatt Road, Franklin, NC 28734.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. An online obituary is available by visiting www.MeM.com or www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

Daniel Dean Montague

Daniel Dean Montague, 93, of Seneca died Saturday, February, 23, 2008. He was born in Jacksonville, Fl. and was the son of William Claudius and Emily Hunter Montague. He was preceded in death by his parents, 3 brothers and 3 sisters. Surviving are sons, Gilbert and wife Amanda Montague of Seneca, SC., Frank Montague of Seneca, SC, and Robert and wife, Peggy Montague of Anderson, SC.

Grandchildren, Danny and wife, Courtney Montague, Jennifer Montague, Eddie and Greg Looney, Renee Thomas also survive. He has 8 great-grandchildren. Entombment services were at 2 p.m. Monday, February 25, 2008 at Oconee Memorial Gardens Mausoleum Chapel with Rev. Baker Crane officiating. The family request donations be made to charity of choice. Brown-Oglesby is in charge of arrangements.

R.C. "Charlie" Kennedy

R.C. "Charlie" Kennedy 86 of Eustis, part-time resident of Highlands, N.C., died on Saturday February 23, 2008. Born in Bronwood, GA his family moved to Eustis when he was six months old.

Mr. Kennedy was a 70-year member of the First Presbyterian Church of Eustis where he was an elder and had served as a deacon. He was the former owner of Zeller, Kennedy & Hamlin Funeral Home in Eustis. He was a highly decorated combat veteran having served in the South Pacific with the U.S. Navy during WWII. Mr. Kennedy was a former member of the Eustis Kiwanis Club and a member of the Ernest Westbrook Post 44 of the American Legion of Eustis and served on the Board of Directors of the First State Bank and Trust Company of Eustis.

He was predeceased by his wife Belle V. Kennedy in 1998 and is survived by his stepson Dr. William V. "Mary Lou" Zeller of Eustis, sisters Nell Harris and Martha Barker both of Eustis, sister in law Carolyn Kennedy of Eustis, grandchildren William C. (Tara) Zeller and Rachel (Jeff) Fuller both of Orlando and a great granddaughter Elizabeth Zeller.

The family requests those desiring direct memorials to Hospice of Lake and Sumter. Graveside services with Military Honors were held in Greenwood Cemetery Eustis at 11 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 26, with Rev. William Kramp officiating.

Condolences may be left with hamlinhilibish.com. Hamlin & Hilibish Funeral Directors 326 E. Orange Avenue, Eustis. 352-357-4193

Comedy written
by Ken Ludwig

Lend Me a Tenor

Directed by
Annette Coleman

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• MILESTONE •

Tommy Lasley graduates from CIA

Carl Thomas Lasley, IV (Tommy) of Highlands graduated with honors from the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y. on February 8. Tommy did his externship at Blue Hill at Stone Barns in Tarrytown, N.Y. under the mentorship of renowned chef, Dan Barber.

The Culinary Institute of America is recognized as the leader in culinary education with its graduates becoming leading international chefs.

Tommy and his wife Olga will be living and working in New York City.

Tommy is the son of Jenny King of Highlands and Tom and Lynn Lasley of Asheville.



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• HS GIRLS BASKETBALL STATS •

Lady Highlanders Season

Highlands Lady Highlanders lost to Rosman during the 1st Round of Playoffs on Feb. 25 at home 35-60.

High scorer was Brie Schmitt with 10 points, followed by Taylor Buras with 8 and Sarah Power with 7. Courtney Rogers scored 5 points, Bobbi Jo Talley and Marlee McCall scored 2 each and Kate Marie Parks scored 1 point. Highlands' record is 4 wins and 27 losses.

Conference Tournament Game 1 vs. Nantahala

Brie Schmitt had 17 points, 4 steals and 8 assists as the Lady Highlanders beat Nantahala in game 1 of the conference tournament. Sarah Power added 12 points, 3 steals, and 7 rebounds. Taylor Buras added 11 points, 4 assists, and 3 steals. Marlee McCall helped with 9 points and 4 rebounds. Courtney Rogers added 4 points and Kate-Marke Parks had 1.

This win allowed the Lady Highlanders to enter state playoffs with the #2 seed from the Little Smoky Mountain Conference.

Conference Tournament Game 2 vs. Hiwassee Dam

The Lady Highlanders lost a tough battle versus a tough Lady Eagles, who were undefeated in the conference. Sarah Power led with 12 points and had 8 rebounds. Taylor Buras followed with 9 and Courtney Rogers, Marlee McCall, Brie Schmitt and Kate-Marie Parks added 2 points each. Brie Schmitt also had 8 rebounds; Kate Parks had 6 and Taylor Buras added 5 for a total of 25 rebounds for the team.

"It was a long season for these girls but they showed a lot of heart and dedication," said Coach Brett Lamb. "We are a young team that has a great future as long as we continue to grow as a team and improve the fundamentals. The future is bright for these girls!"

• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Head thumping

Forget water boarding — this is better

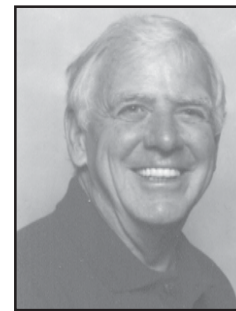
I was only on the football team for about a dozen practices before I tossed in the towel. I knew I was too scrawny and puny to make an All State Championship team like Male High but, nevertheless, I had to try. Things were a lot different back in those days. Our coach was a sadistic, brutal, angry guy who loved torturing kids and treated football players like meat. Since my high school was State Champion each and every year, the facility vigorously supported his brutality. The end always justified the means.

I knew he was after me from the first day. He kept asking, "What's your name again, kid?" He finally gave up and called me "Hey, you." Practically no one was kicked off his team. Because he made life so miserable for wimps like me, they would eventually quit. Am I DUH, or what?

I worked hard at trying to learn the play book but I must be a slow learner. Coach had a system for helping me. He would take me to the locker room, make me put on my helmet and stand next to a locker. Then he would get up in my face and shout, "16 bulldog red 7 on 3, hut, hut, hut," spraying spittle all over me. I had seconds to blurt out the play and if I didn't, he would grab my helmet by the ear holes and slam my head against the locker six or seven times while shouting "Think, think" each time my head hit the locker. Eventually, I took his advice and did some thinking, then quit. To this day, I remember his bad breath.

Flash ahead a half century and look at life in the good ole USA. For the most part, corporal punishment has been replaced with more tame methods of getting people to see one's point of view. Torture is no longer acceptable on high school football teams.

While taking a switch to my kids for misbehaving was still acceptable, thumbscrews and water boarding was not. Later, when my kids became parents, I waited for my grandkids to pay them back for all the aggravation they caused me. While it was fun to watch, I found modern day parents are no longer allowed to use any form of



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged! email:

askfredanything@aol.com

corporal punishment in public for fear of going to jail.

Enter the art of "forehead thumping." My daughter was loading her three Navy brats into their SUV. Once buckled in, my daughter attempted to close the rear car door, but my granddaughter kept putting one leg out just to aggravate her. After pushing her leg in twice and seeing it flop back out each time, my daughter cocked her

middle finger against her thumb in the "thump" position and showed it to my granddaughter. She immediately pulled her leg in and the door was shut. No shouting, no muss, not fuss. Forehead thumping, or the threat thereof, is the new "in" torture for children.

In the old days, I would have merely smacked my daughter's leg hard to cause pain and then shut the door. But today, if someone video tapes you smacking your kid in public, you might get a visit from the child abuse people who will show you the video, want to put you in jail and take away your kids. Could I make this up?

This forehead thumping is the real deal. My oldest son's youngest kid, age five, is out of control. He always waits until they are in a busy restaurant or a church full of people to have a meltdown. It's almost like he knows his Dad can't spank him in front of a sea of strangers in fear of later eating jail food. Soooo, my son shows him the cocked middle finger against his thumb and if that doesn't calm him, he is escorted from the building. A minute later the two would walk back into the building with my grimaced faced grandson holding his forehead. Calmness and quiet would prevail.

I know this might sound foolish, but it really works. Pretend you are about to flick a June bug off your corn-on-the-cob. Place your cocked finger next to your li'l missus's forehead and flick it as hard as you can. Whoa, does that hurt or what? Now pick yourself up off the floor and let her do it to you, like five times in exactly the same spot. By the fifth flick, it feels like you're being hit with a sledgehammer!

• ANOTHER VIEW •

Candidates shouldn't try to be all things to all people

A famous heart surgeon once said that surgery was the most fun you could have with your clothes on. Either he knew way too much about naked activities or too little about political browsing. Just as John McCain was completing a truly remarkable comeback and being anointed the Republican candidate, the New York Times published a story suggesting hanky panky with a female lobbyist, and arguably more importantly, reminding us of his membership in the "Keating Five." Mike Huckabee has enough money and conservative support to remain a nuisance. Republicans will distrust John McCain long after they've forgotten their anger with the New York Times over the story, although they will, no doubt, find other reasons to be upset with the Times.

The real fun is on the Democratic side, where the Obama campaign displayed far too much outrage over an old picture of Obama dressed as a Somali elder. The picture was taken when the Senator was touring Africa and, as is the habit of junketing politicians, donned the local gear. Remember recent images of George Bush sword dancing with a Saudi official? It's embarrassing, but harmless. Obama might have quipped, "You think I look silly? You should see the picture of Hillary in Tahiti!" Instead he blamed the Clinton campaign for fear mongering, for keeping alive the ridiculous notion that he is an African Muslim, and as such, a threat to homeland security.

Meanwhile Senator Clinton was waving Obama campaign mailings in the air at a speech, and claiming that his campaign material misrepresented her positions on health care and trade. We need a guy with a green eye shade and sleeve garters to tell us who is telling the truth in these matters. She feigned indignation and challenged Obama to a shoot-out, or debate in Ohio. It was low theater, but energized her remaining faithful followers. Maybe Clinton speech writers stayed out on strike when Hollywood writers went back to work, but she just doesn't have many great one-liners and telegraphs those that she does. She waits for an opening, a chance to throw her zinger, and finally, as a debate is winding down, desperate to get it in, swings wildly at air, leaving the analysts to explain what she meant. Her "change



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.

email: hsalzarulo@aol.com

that you can Xerox" and "working for a slum lord" are great examples. No hint of spontaneity, just a canned jab, awkwardly delivered.

Obama, who has enjoyed a string of high profile endorsements, received a toxic one that he could not have enjoyed. Louis Farrakhan of Nation of Islam returned from where ever he has been to portray Obama as a savior. More than 90% of Black Americans support Obama. An endorsement from Farrakhan can do no

good among Afro Americans, but might scare the hell out of whites.

Senator Clinton is hammering away at the claim that she will be ready to deal with a crisis on day one of her presidency, which will probably never occur, and certainly not before January 2017. She suggests that Obama won't be ready in January 2009. She has started to ridicule his eloquence and his appeal to Americans who are dissatisfied with the status quo. What else can she do when she lacks his appeal and is part of the status quo?

She even suggested that in the event of a crisis early in her presidency she would be ready to act alone, while Senator Obama would need to gather advisers to respond to a threat. She makes it sound as if that would be a bad thing. Her approach sounds like one that President Bush has employed repeatedly.

I want my president to surround himself with the brightest people in the country, people of all parties and persuasions, and forge a response based on their best ideas. If I were advising Senator Obama, and I'm not among those referenced above, I would say the following. It doesn't matter how many specific plans a candidate has. Look at the Republican "Contract with America" or the Democrats "First Hundred Days." Plans don't go anywhere without congressional and popular support. What matters is the ability to bring the America's people and her leaders together, to decide what is best for our country, to debate the thorny issues of war, trade, immigration, and health care, and beyond debate, to jointly decide what works best for America and to pursue solutions without the quest for political advantage.

I would ask him to build on the

•See ANOTHER VIEW page 22

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• HS BOYS BASKETBALL STATS •

Highlanders season now over

The Highlanders' last game was Tuesday, Feb. 26 against Murphy on their home turf in the first round of playoffs. It was a tight game – Highlands 64, Murphy 74.

This season's powerhouses, Jake Heffington and Ezra Herz carried the game scoring 23 and 22 points, respectively. Michael Shearl, another consistent player, scored 13

points.

Each quarter was played hard and strong, with 15, 11, 19, 19 points scored, respectively, but Murphy inched forward in the second, third and fourth quarters. Those few extra points were enough to seal the game for them.

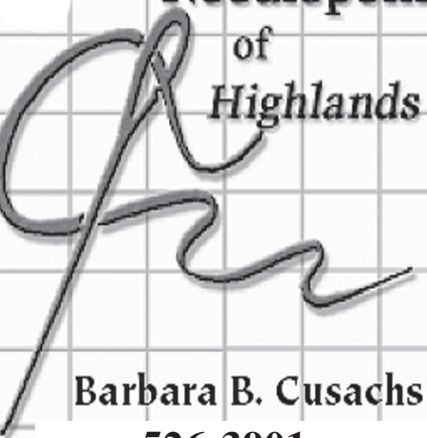
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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

Just what do we mean by change?

I love "Bulworth," the courageous film Warren Beatty made in 1998 about American politics. It opens with Senator Bulworth in the middle of a complete mental breakdown, planning his suicide while he watches his latest campaign commercials play over and over again endlessly repeating the slogan, "We stand at the doorstep of a New Millennium." The senator is surrounded by photos of himself with Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy; he's sick to death at the loss of his integrity: he has sold his soul to the devil of modern American money-politics. He found himself playing the same old cheap tricks on the sleeping public that he had campaigned against so long ago, back when he was an idealistic young man on the side of "change," and "reform," and "openness and transparency in government."



Katie Brugger
k-brugger@hotmail.com

Americans also seem to regularly want the bums in Washington thrown out. How often in the last 30 years has that been the case in presidential elections? Jimmy Carter, governor of Georgia: outsider. Ronald Reagan, actor and governor of California: outsider. George H.W. Bush, vice-president: insider elected due to Reagan's popularity. Bill Clinton, governor of Arkansas: outsider. George W. Bush, governor of Texas: outsider. Barack Obama, freshman senator from Illinois: outsider.

So we elect an outsider who gets in power and then becomes just the same as the ones we threw out, so we elect a new outsider to clean up the mess, who gets in power and becomes the same... Why do we keep falling for it?

I can certainly understand why a young person would vote against Hillary Clinton. Imagine this: if you are 18 years old, for your entire life the president of the United States has been named either Bush or Clinton.

But I don't understand the Obama-mania among older people. [To be clear: I am not a Clinton partisan.] I hear Obama praised for his uplifting rhetoric and inspiring vision of change. But what exactly is Obama's vision? In last week's debate Obama said himself that there is very little difference between his policy proposals and Clinton's.

The banner on his official website says: "I'm asking you to believe. Not just in my ability to bring about real change in Washington... I'm asking you to believe in yours." But just what are we supposed to believe we can change into? That's what I don't get. I don't hear anything that is truly new or revolutionary in his proposals, and I have looked through his website. It's the standard safe barely-to-the-left-of-center Democratic positions.

He's taking money from all of the same special interests. He's beholden just like all the rest of them.

Are we supposed to be excited about the prospect of everyone all of a sudden playing nice and getting along because a President Obama asks them to? Do you really believe that is going to happen?

I think Obama comes across as extremely naïve in his belief that he can make common cause with conservatives. In an article last week in *The New York Times* about John McCain, Rush Limbaugh was quoted (transcript of his radio program): "The important question for John McCain today is, Is he going to

• See BRUGGER page 22

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• HIS & HERS •

Running for Congress, expecting to win

Many of you who read these columns know I ran for Congress in 2006. It was in the primary against a 16-year incumbent named Charles Taylor. Given just that information, you're not surprised that I lost, getting just 20% of the vote. I was not surprised, either. But 2008 is a different kettle of fish.

I was right, by the way, about the end of Taylor's career. I said he was at the end of the line. He was. He got beaten soundly by a Democrat whose claim to fame was that he once played football. Heath Shuler's the name.

In 2008, regardless of what happens nationally in the Presidential Election, I should be nominated for Congress in the 11th District of North Carolina in the primary on 6 May, and then be elected on 4 November. Why am I confident in 2008, when I got trounced in 2006?

Here's why: the period for filing for office in North Carolina is open now, until February 29. It is possible that some other Republican might file for Congress between now and then, but it looks like the list of candidates will close at three. Here are the other two:

Carl Mumpower has served six years as an Asheville City Councilman. He is a Doctor of Psychology. Spence Campbell is a 25-year Army veteran, who later worked in insurance. He has a Masters in Russian Area Studies. I won't say anything about either of these two men, or about any particular issues. See for yourself why I should win the nomination against these opponents.

Go to this Internet address: <http://www.youtube.com/ArmorforCongress>

There you will find the complete and uncut first debate between Armor, Campbell and Mumpower, conducted in Hendersonville last November. That video was shot by and broadcast on URTV, a public access channel in Asheville. It shows what I brought to the table, and how I handled myself, compared to the other two. You may well conclude that I should win the primary with a competent campaign. Five more debates are already scheduled, and there may be more.

Now, the harder part of the



Michelle Mead & John Armor
michiemead@aol.com
John_Armor@yale.edu

equation. Why do I think I will defeat the freshman incumbent Democrat, Heath Shuler?

The 11th District registration is about 40% Democrat, 39% Republican, and the rest are almost entirely Independents. The history of the District, however, shows that it has consistently voted for Republicans in the

House, the Senate, and for President for the past 16 years, with the sole exception of Shuler's win in 2006.

The reason for this is that many of the Democrats and more than half of the independents classify themselves as "conservative." Shuler ran as a conservative. But the first vote he cast was to elect Nancy Pelosi, a San Francisco liberal, as Speaker. And since then, he has voted 84% of the time the way Speaker Pelosi wanted.

Telling the voters of the 11th District the plain, unvarnished truth about Heath and about me, plus debating Heath every time I can get the chance, is all that it will take for me to win in November. I will have the backing of the Republican Party. As a Washington newspaper pointed out in detail two weeks ago, there are 29 Districts the Republicans must target if they want a shot at regaining control of the House. The 11th District is high on that list.

Want more information about me?

Go here: <http://www.ArmorforCongress.com>

Want more information about Mumpower? Go here: <http://www.Mumpower08.com>

Want more information about Campbell? Go here: <http://SpenceCampbell2008.com>

Yes, I know my website is not as crisp as the other two. My Internet gurus are working even as we speak, to make that visually simpler and better.

How many candidates have you ever run into who give equal time to their opponents? Danged few, I reckon. But I believe in good old-fashioned side-by-side comparison shopping. On the Internet, in fast food, on cars, on politics, and on the ideas of how government should, and should not, be run.

• See HIS & HERS page 14

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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

Henny-Penny – ‘The Sky is Falling’

Somewhat over a year ago, after the Democrats swept the national election, I bemoaned the fact that Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid would be running Congress.



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

Their dismal performance has lived up to my expectations. Shortly thereafter, the presidential entries made themselves known, and the Dem list was frightening. Unfortunately, the most frightening names (with the exception of Dennis Kucinich, who goes beyond frightening) prevailed, and here we are with Hillbilly and Barack.

Hillary maintains that she has 35 years of “experience.” I’m thinking, experience at what? So, I checked out what she’s been up to since 1973. Living with Bill in DC, she did post-graduate studies until he moved to Arkansas, and she followed.

Ironically, she held out on the marriage issue, thinking her accomplishments would be viewed in the light of someone else’s accomplishments. Ultimately she gave in. She joined the infamous Rose law firm and made partner. Bill became governor and she became an expert in cattle futures trading, parlaying \$1,000 into over \$100,000 in 10 months. I could never understand why she quit trading (wink-wink). I guess her phenomenal success being made public may have had something to do with it.

Meanwhile, their (Billary’s) involvement in the Whitewater Development Corporation, a real estate venture gone south, bubbled up and would haunt them for years. The Clintons were two of four principals in Whitewater. The other two were convicted of fraud, and 13 others associated with the scandal, including Gov. Jim Guy Tucker, went to prison. Miraculously, the Clintons were not convicted of charges brought against them.

Bill is elected prez in 1992 and Hillary assumed her rightful place in the West Wing of the White House, the only First wife to do so. Bill gives her the job of nationalizing health care by forming the Task Force on National Health Care Reform and putting her in charge. She shuts out the Republicans and meets with her committee in secret sessions, bringing the wrath of nearly everybody down on her. The result of her efforts was the Clinton Health Plan (Hillarycare) which failed to pass either house in August, 1994, both of which had Democrat majorities. So bad was the manner in which she arrived at the “Plan” and so bad was the finished product that it was

given credit, at least in part, for the Republican sweep in the Congressional election of 1994. Thanks, Hill.

Then there was Travelgate. Hillary had the entire staff of the White House Travel Office fired so that one of her buddies could take it over and run it “her way.”

Not content to ruin the lives of the seven staff members with longevity of 8 to 30 years in the office, she con-

trived charges against Billy Dale, director of the office, and turned him inside out defending the imaginary grievances of which he was ultimately acquitted.

And then there was Filegate. Quoting from Wikipedia, “Craig Livingstone, director of the White House’s Office of Personnel Security, improperly requested, and received from the FBI, background reports without asking permission of the subject individuals. The incident caused a firestorm of criticism because many of the files covered White House employees from previous Republican administrations.... Under criticism, Livingstone resigned from his position. Allegations were made that senior White House figures including First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton may have requested and read the files for political purposes, and that the First Lady authorized the hiring of the under-qualified Livingstone.”

And then there was Fostergate. In July, 1993, White House counsel Vince Foster was found dead in Ft. Marcy Park in DC. Foster’s death was officially ruled a suicide, but anybody with a pulse knew at the time that there was a cover up. There was conflicting evidence, a forged suicide note and very good reasons for Foster to be removed. I don’t begin to know what really happened to Vince Foster. He knew too much about too many Clinton misdeeds. At the time, many thought Hillary was deeply involved in Foster’s demise. Assistant Attorney General Webster Hubbell was quoted in an Esquire interview, “Don’t believe a word you hear. It was not a suicide. It couldn’t have been.”

In all fairness, Hillary served on many boards, non-profit and otherwise, led movements to increase women’s involvement in governments around the world, fought to give children the right to sue their parents and wrote a book preaching that villagers should replace parents in child-rearing.

Hopefully, the primaries on March 4 will end her presidential quest for now. If this is experience, I don’t want it. I also don’t want Obama’s lack of it.

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• FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

Paving to cost more, but still happening

There is a treat coming up for everyone who is a theater goer. One of the three theater companies in Highlands, the Highlands Community Players, is putting on a hilarious play, "Lend Me a Tenor," these next two weekends. This group has put on some outstanding plays in truly expert fashion over the past 10 or so years with local talent, and I would highly recommend those interested in really fine entertainment to pick a day they will be performing at the Performing Arts Center and go. It never ceases to amaze me how much talent we have in our immediate area of Highlands and Cashiers in so many different fields.

Supporting these folks' energetic efforts is highly recommended if you are looking for an entertaining evening. My wife and I certainly will.

Speaking of talented people, do you realize we have a man in this town who has climbed to the highest point in all 50 states in the United States which includes some of the highest mountains in the world such as Mt. McKinley in Alaska? Now Florida and Kansas would not be a problem for you or me but most of the others would! Hillrie Quin not only has done that but is a huge contributor of his voluntary time to many organizations in town including being chairman of our Greenway Committee. He works tirelessly for our town in many ways. Tell him you appreciate him when you see him.

We had an important meeting with leading representatives of the NC Department of Transportation last Friday regarding the paving of Hickory Hill, Chowan and Cullasaja Roads. As many of you know we have had approved money from the State contingency fund of about \$270,000 but find out from DOT that may not be enough in spite of the fact they had done the calculations. So our meeting was to work out the details of this important project.

State Senator John Snow and Representative Roger West were also very important attendees to that meeting. After much discussion regarding the construction in detail, another estimate will be made immediately, and Senator Snow and Representative West assured us that, if indeed the cost turns out to be more, we will get more money out of the contingency fund. The main thing is that we are still on course to get these



Mayor Don Mullen

roads paved by our own standards late in the spring of this year. The roads will be turned over to the town, the work will be done by DOT and will be done on schedule.

That all is a relief for not only the people who live on these roads but also for the protection of our water supply from silt buildup in the lakes where

our pumps are. We also talked to Senator Snow regarding money for clearing the existing silt from Big Creek. We soon will have an estimate from Mountain Engineering regarding the cost of this big project and hopefully the senator will be able to help us obtain funding for this as well.

It is hard to believe that the large project started by USFS at Dry Falls is threatened with incompleteness because of a short fall of funding. Why would they start a project such as this if they did not have funding to complete it? The parking lot and bridge over the Gorge Road at the site of Dry Falls is not only a safety issue but also a convenience issue for the many people who enjoy the falls, particularly in the spring, summer and fall. I have encouraged the USFS to find enough money to complete this project in a timely manner and not leave a mess in a very important part of the plateau which is one of our biggest tourist attractions.

An important event took place at the Pine Street Park this past week. The Pine Street Park Committee has raised enough money from the Town of Highlands and Macon County along with private donations to repay Mark Meadows (thanks for your patience, Mark!) for the cost of the park. On Tuesday a week ago, the group turned the property over to the Town of Highlands and it is now officially belongs to the people of Highlands.

The Recreation Committee of the town has worked out the necessary guidelines for the use of the park and that will be submitted soon to the Board of Commissioners at which time the regulations for its use will be made public. Hopefully, sometime in the near future we can begin to plan a pavilion and rest rooms for the site so that it can be used for public events. We all need to congratulate the Pine Street Park committee for their dedicated work on this project for the good of all Highlands.

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• COACH'S CORNER •

Hate: Not just another four-letter word

The word "hate" is one of my mother's most hated four letter words. Growing up, I can recall exclaiming how much I "hated something" (or someone) and my mom laying the verbal smackdown on me for using such a strong word.

The concept of hate has had a tremendous amount of effect on the sporting world within recent years --

especially with the influence of the Internet among fans and their favorite teams. There are numerous websites that claim hatred for teams, players, coaches and even opposing fans.

Any discussion of hate needs to begin with a proper definition. Merriam-Webster defines hatred as "intense hostility and aversion usually

deriving from fear, anger, or sense of injury."

As the popularity of the Internet has spread, the number of opportunities for that hostility has grown immensely. One of the things that psychologists have discovered over the years is how pressure from outside sources can reduce a single person's capacity to make moral judgments and decisions. Sociologist Irving Janis defines this as "groupthink." The most common example of groupthink in regards to sports fans can be found on internet message boards, where rational discourse amongst fans has been replaced by paranoia, sensitivity and irrational thoughts that are consistent with the aforementioned definition of hatred.

While the usual suspects of Notre Dame, Duke, Dallas and yes...the Yankees are the subject of some of these discussions -- the Internet has brought about this attitude with rivals and fans from all schools. One would be shocked and surprised to find the things said about opposing players/fans/coaches on these fan message boards. For example, while one poster might conclude something harmless (such as Coach K's rather...rodent like features or how Roy Williams looks a bit like Huckleberry Hound) the ante must then be upped by questioning player's sexual preference or referring to coaches as Hitler or an adulterer.

While this behavior might seem harmless to some -- if it spirals out of control fast enough it can cause major damage to the reputations of these players, coaches or to the program itself.

Last year Arkansas football coach Houston Nutt resigned in part because of some overzealous fans/haters who checked his phone records and concluded that he was having an affair with an Arkansas news anchor. While this may be explained by some as an isolated incident, it is one that is becoming far more common in the age of the internet.

The other half of this equation is the role that the media plays in furthering of the hatred of fans by reporting on it and making it seem more and more as an acceptable part of society. It seems like once a week now that you read a piece reporting on why fans hate Duke, or why fans hate the

Yankees, or why fans love to hate Kobe Bryant or Randy Moss. Books have been written and published on the philosophies of hating certain programs, and rivalry games are promoted as a spectacle of good old fashioned hatred between fans and schools.

In fact, one of the major measuring sticks of a true rivalry, according to the media, is just how much the two teams (or schools) really

hate one another. Unfortunately, with the advent of the 24-hour news cycle and the endless quest for a scoop, the media's concentration on hatred is likely to become even worse as time moves along.

While I am sure that the three or four people who read this column (thanks grandma) are now asking the question -- do we hate now more than we did 50 years ago? The answer to this is...sort of.

While I don't think that any rivalries have become more heated in recent years, I do believe that fans have become more and more influenced by this groupthink mentality.

In the past, if North Carolina beat Duke I could expect some good natured ribbing from Skip Keener and Mike McCall (RIP). Now if UNC wins the big game I can turn on my Facebook page and read plenty of profane remarks about myself and the school that I support. It is a dynamic that has truly changed with the technological advances that bring news and information to our fingertips every day.

In closing, I must say that I may be adding to this phenomenon, mainly because I can offer no solutions to these problems that I have identified today. Despite my attempts to remain as objective and balanced as possible, there are times that I cannot control the searing jealousy and anger that I sometimes feel towards the New York Yankees or the North Carolina Tarheels.

As I attempt to remind myself that these are just people playing a game (after exploding at the television watching Tyler Hansbrough take 4 steps before dunking or watching the Patriots get a timely defensive holding penalty in their favor) sometimes I wonder if I should just give in to the feelings and bask in the glory of intense hostility. After all, as Will Blythe says; "To Hate Like This Is To Be Happy Forever." (I'll probably try it sometime)



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

One day upon a time...

By Darlene Melcher
Community Bible Church

As the grayish sky gave way to the golden morning light, Truitt and Worley received their instructions for their new jobs at the stone quarry. As each man stood before individual stacks of stone the Master Foreman explained, "Each day's load is set out for each man. Carry the day's load to the designated spot. Also, each day's bread will be set out for you, fresh every morning."

The task seemed simple enough. While each man's load was different, it was neither more or less than each man could bear. Correspondingly, the day's bread was sufficient for each man, not too much, but not too little. Worley noticed many stacks of varying sizes laid out to the side and he asked, "Master, what are these stacks laid out?"

The Master replied, "Each day's load is already laid out ahead of time. But take no thought of another day's load, just focus on the task at hand."

"But Master," Worley wondered, "can a man carry other day's loads?"

"No. Each man must carry the day's load set out for him."

With that, the day began. However, Worley's eyes kept straying to the other piles and he noticed that Friday's load seemed awfully large. Reasoning to himself, he decided that getting a start on that day's load would really be wise. So, he began to work hurriedly trying to carry the current day's load as well as part of Friday's. Each day, Worley would come in and carry the day's load and try to carry some of Friday's load as well. As time wore on Worley's strength began to wane, but Friday's stack seemed just as overwhelming as ever. Truitt tried to remind him of the Master's words, but Worley was too preoccupied to hear his friend.

Friday finally came and Worley dragged himself to the quarry. To his horror, there stood the day's load, Friday's load, not nearly as large as it had seemed before but seemingly untouched. In despair, Worley crumpled to the ground in exhaustion and began to weep loudly. Truitt ran to get the Master, but the Master was already there watching Worley and waiting. Finally, Worley lifted his bleary eyes and met the Master's gaze. Sobbing, Worley explained to the Master how he had tried to carry this load in addition to each day's load. The Master looked at Worley and had compassion on him. Worley had the impression that the Master already knew all about it. The Master spoke, "I told you not to worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow's load will be taken care of tomorrow. Besides, each day's load is sufficiently troublesome on its own." The Master wiped the tears from Worley's face; then, together, they carried the day's load. From that day forward, Worley learned never to try to carry another day's load, but only what the Master had wisely set out for each day.

As with Truitt and Worley, God provided bread for Israel in the wilderness. Some gathered much and some gathered little but no one lacked and no one had excess. As an act of obedience and a lesson on dependence, the people looked to God daily for their nourishment and thus their strength. Likewise, Jesus instructs us to pray for "our daily bread." Then He refers to Himself as the Bread of life which has come from heaven. He gives us the strength and the power we need to live each day. Notice He does not instruct us to ask for our weekly bread, or today's bread and Friday's bread. Fresh "bread" is available to us each day and it is sufficient for our needs.

•See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 21

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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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Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor • 828-369-7977
Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m.
(nursery provided)

Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.
Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by children's
Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Jr & Sr Youth Group 6:30 p.m.;
Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.
Small groups available throughout the week.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153
Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; School - 9:30 a.m.; Youth - 6:30 p.m.; Choir - 7:15
Wednesdays: Dinner - 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids - 6 p.m.;
Prayer - 6:15 p.m., Choir - 7:30 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Mark Kayser, Interim Pastor
Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175
Sun.: Worship - 11 a.m.; Sun.School - 9:30 & 9:45.
Mondays: 8 a.m. - Men's Bible Discussion & Breakfast
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. - Seekers

Choir - 7

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7
HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

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Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Senior Pastor Todd Struble; Asst. Pastor Mike Harris
526-3376

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

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Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Choir - 6 p.m.

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871
Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.

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

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Tien, Priest

Parish office, 526-2418

Sundays: Mass - 11 a.m.

Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.

(through last Saturday of October)

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. - 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 10:45 a.m.;
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.

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

For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Wayne Price

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

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

Wiley Sloan wins McCulley's Cashmere Raffle for the Instant Theatre Company

McCulley's Cashmere raffled off a luxurious cashmere sweatshirt to benefit the Instant Theatre Company. Wiley Sloan, who won the drawing, said, "It never occurred to me that I would win the raffle. I just bought tickets because I wanted to support the Instant Theatre Company."



Wireless Internet now at the Hudson Library

Grab your laptop and head for the Hudson Library, Highlands' new "hot spot." The library's wireless Internet service is up and running. Stop by to check your e-mail, download files, or surf the Web.

Wireless Internet access is a local area network (LAN) run by radio waves rather than wires. The wireless signal is broadcast from a central hub which is a hard-wired device that actually brings in the Internet connection. The hub, located at the main computer system, broadcasts Internet connectivity to anyone within "hearing" range whose computer is equipped with a wireless LAN card.

The connection speed at the library will be better than dial-up and many DSL and cable modem connections. However, the

more people using it at any one time the slower the speed will be. Also, the signal will only work inside the library building.

Many laptop computers are automatically configured to pick up a wireless signal, but if yours isn't, it is a simple matter to select the Hudson Library frequency: in Control Panel choose Network Connections. Right-click Wireless Network Connection, then choose "FRL Wireless."

The librarians can't help you configure your computer, but you can ask at the desk for a Fontana Regional Library brochure "Your Guide to Wireless Internet" that has instructions for Windows operating systems stretching back to Windows 98.

Passport applications now at Town Hall

If you are planning to travel you may now pick up an application to obtain a new or renewed passport at Highlands Town

Hall.

Macon County Clerk of Superior Court Vic Perry said that he is making the applications available in Highlands as a convenience for Highlands residents but said the town is not a passport agent. The Clerk's office in the courthouse in Franklin remains the only accepted passport agency in Macon County. If your application is for a new passport or for the recently-introduced passport card, you will need to appear at the Clerk's office with your completed application.

Renewal applications may be mailed by the applicant. The application forms contain instructions and contact information for applicants who may have questions.

Perry said the State Department is now offering the wallet-size passport card that may be used for travel only by land or sea between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Bermuda and the Caribbean. The card will provide a less expensive, smaller and more convenient alternative for those who travel to those destinations. Travelers may apply for the card now, however the State Department has said it will not begin processing those applications until later in the spring. The passport fee for the card will be \$20 for persons age 16 and over and \$10 for persons under 16. In addition to the passport fee, there will be a \$25 execution fee for each card.


The passport fee for the traditional passport book for persons 16 or older is \$75. For minors under the age of 16 the passport book fee is \$60. There is also a \$25 execution fee payable to the acceptance agency. The fee for an expedited application is an additional \$60.

Perry urges anyone who has questions about the passport application process to contact the State Department via the contact information included on the application or to call the Clerk of Court's office at 349-2042.

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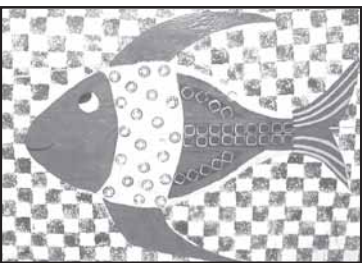
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Highlands School students and parents honored at Rotary

Each month the Rotary Club of Highlands honors exemplary students from Highlands School as Rotary Scholars of the Month. The students are selected by the school faculty and are recognized, along with their parents, at one of the weekly Rotary noon meetings. At the February 19, 2008 meeting, Jake Heffington, Abigale Gilbert, Cristell Ruiz and Sydney Harris were introduced and presented a certificate of accomplishment by Rotary Club of Highlands President Jeff Weller.



AnMed Blood Drive
at Highlands School
Friday, Feb. 29
9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

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Macon County Health Department gears up for new residential well law

Environmental Health Specialists at the Macon County Public Health Center are busy making preparations for big changes in the way Macon and other NC counties protect drinking water supplies. These changes are the result of a new law signed by Gov. Easley, which as of July 1, 2008 will require permitting and inspections of new residential drinking water wells. The task of implementing this new law will fall to local health departments across the state.

Barry Patterson, RS, Environmental Health Supervisor with the Macon County Public Health Center said the new law will have a positive impact on the drinking water supply by testing each new well for coliform bacteria, nitrates, and several metals. It also will prevent future contamination of wells by ensuring proper grouting during installation. Patterson feels this program is good for public health, although it will mean additional site visits for his staff and an additional application for the public. Local well drillers will also be affected because they will need to coordinate their drilling schedules with site-visits required of the Environmental Health Specialists.

After July 1, 2008 each new residential well to be drilled will require the

owner to obtain an "Authorization to Construct". During construction, at least one on-site visit will be required to oversee grouting of the well by an environmental health specialist. Once the well is constructed, a final inspection will be required at which time a water sample will be collected and a "Well Completion Permit" will be issued.

Patterson said that Macon County commissioners have given approval for two additional staff members to implement the requirements of the new law. The county's cost to administer the program will be re-couped through application fees. Environmental health staff at the health department met last fall with local well drilling contractors to discuss the new program. A second meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2008 to review the new rules, applications, scheduling process, and inspection requirements.

Additional information about North Carolina's new well law can be found at <http://www.ncwelldriller.org/CountyWellRegulationPrograms.htm> and at <http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/admin/rules/documents/2C.doc> or by contacting the Macon County Public Health Center at 349-2490.



Lenten Sermon Series at Highlands United Methodist Church

*Tempted, Tried, Tested, and True:
The True Marks of Christian Disciples.*

- 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

315 Main Street (526-3376)
Services Begin at 11:00
Todd Struble, Senior Pastor
Mike Harris, Associate Pastor
Les Scott, Minister of Music

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County Manager Horton addresses 'League'

By Sally Hansen
Reporter

February's League of Women Voters meeting featured new County Manager Jack Horton. Horton is no stranger to the role or to Macon County — he previously served as county manager of Macon County from 1985-1991, then moved to Haywood

County and spent 15 years managing that county. For the past two years Horton was Caldwell County's manager.

Horton gave a little background about how he got into his profession. He grew up in Mecklenburg County north of Charlotte, and attended Appalachian State University (ASU). While at ASU in 1976 Horton had the opportunity to an internship in local government in Bryson City.

After college Horton worked as a tax collector for 15 months. "You learn a lot about people when you collect taxes," Horton said. He became the first county manager of Swain County in 1978, a position he held until three years later when he moved to Waynesville to work in the private sector.

Horton then spent two years as a manager before moving to Macon County to become County Manager when Sam Greenwood retired from the position. "It's like déjà vu all over again," Horton said, as this time he's also replaced a retiring Greenwood in the position.

Horton said that most of the issues facing any county can be summed up using the "three E's:" education, environment, and economy. He talked about the educational issues first, saying that the county commissioners have committed to the plans that were included in the failed school bond referendum in November of last year, and that these plans will still be carried out.

"The property for the new 5-6 middle school has already been purchased," Horton said, "North Macon School will be more complicated" since there isn't already sewer, water, and other infrastructure in place like there is at the site of the new middle school. He also said that commissioners had voted to authorize the

county to work with Southwestern Community College (SCC) towards the designing of a new classroom building on the SCC's Macon Campus on Siler Road. Horton said this building would be for the Early College High School students, which are currently sharing the Groves Building on the newly-completed campus.

"Education is a high priority, and we will continue to do what we can to make sure we have the funds not only to pay for teachers but also for facilities for the kids to use," Horton said.

Next, he touched on the environment. Horton praised the changes that have taken place over the last 30 years concerning litter, erosion control and steep slope development. "I'm encouraged to see that people are looking down the road to the next generation to see if the environment is what it should be," he said.

Horton said that while growth is inevitable, counties can plan for it to make it more manageable. "Drinking water is going to be a top priority not just here but all across the state," he said. Horton said that when he was in Haywood County, all the water that is used by the county originated in that county. This is not true in Macon County. "A lot of our water comes out of Georgia, and we can't control the headwaters of that unless we can negotiate with those where the water starts," Horton said. He predicted that one of the biggest issues over the next decade will be protecting water resources.

Moving on to issues of the economy, Horton said that he has been meeting with the Economic Development Committee (EDC), and he emphasized the need to diversify the local economy. Until recently most of the local economy has been based on the housing industry, but this may be leveling off, which would not be good for

our economy. "We need to do something to create opportunities for people not just to move here to retire, but to afford to raise a family here," he said.

Horton said one of the highest priorities is to take advantage of fields like information technology, to promote our children and grandchildren to stay in this area instead of moving away to find jobs. "We need to have a plan in place, and the EDC is working toward the idea of developing a long-term, long-range strategy that will create and sustain jobs and growth and the economic sector of the county," he said.

The county is currently working with Southwestern Community College, the Department of Commerce, Advantage West, and the chambers of commerce to try to promote the county and retain workers and attract new businesses.

Horton said they would work with anyone else involved in business and industry and job creation to do what they can to establish and maintain a good, stable economy. "It doesn't just happen overnight, we have to take steps to make it happen," he said.

... HIS & HERS from pg 7

I cordially invite all who read this column, and have read my columns before, to decide whether I would be a good addition to the 111th Congress. If so, please get in touch with me, and help me how you can, now, for the primary. I think you'll be pleased with the results.

About the Author: John Armor practiced in the US Supreme Court for 33 years. John_Armor@aya.yale.edu He is running for the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

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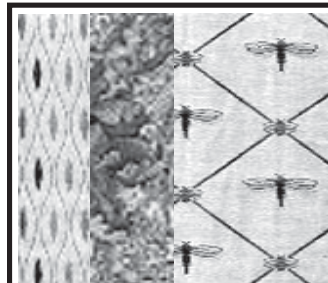
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Learning about germs



Germs were one of several topics drawing the attention of some 20 third, fourth and fifth graders from Summit Charter School in Cashiers during a behind-the-scenes tour last week of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. In addition to covering all of the many things the hospital's laboratory routinely does, Lab Supervisor Dan Rogers (above) also explained how technicians run cultures on various types of bacteria and viruses to help physicians determine what antibiotics they should use to treat patients. The surgical hats, masks and gloves worn by the students weren't because of any danger of lurking "bugs," however. They were the "big hit" of an earlier visit to the hospital surgical department, where students learned about the hospital's ever-vigilant efforts to maintain its extremely low infection rate. The students weren't allowed to actually venture into the operating rooms (because they are sterile areas), but they got a lesson on why surgeons and nurses wear special clothes and pay so much attention to scrubbing up before a procedure. Other lessons during the visit about the importance of hand washing as the first line of defense against spreading illness proved particularly timely, since the area is currently in the midst of cold and flu season.

County's school nurse asks parents to keep sick children home

The Macon County Public Health Center and Macon County Lead School Nurse, Jennifer Garrett, issued a statement today advising that Macon County Schools have been experiencing increased number of absences in the past few days.

Reasons include illness such as strep throat, cold symptoms, possible cases of the flu, and vomiting and diarrhea, which may be accompanied by a headache.

Parents are being asked not to send their children to school if they have a fever of 101.5 or greater, if they have any vomiting and/or diarrhea, and children diagnosed with strep must be on antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to school.

Garrett encourages practicing good infection control measures such as:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick.
- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue or cough/sneeze in sleeve.
- Wash hands often and avoid

touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

Children and adults should seek prompt medical attention if their symptoms worsen or do not resolve in a few days.

Blood drive at Highlands School

Highlands School is hosting a blood drive in the AnMed Blood Center's bloodmobile parked outside the school from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 29.

High school students, teachers and the general public are invited to participate. AnMed supplies blood to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and a number of other hospitals around a three-state region. In recent years, the number of units raised in the Highlands-Cashiers area accounts for less than half the number needed to treat local patients. Hospital officials are encouraging potential donors to participate in the school's drive, which is being sponsored by the Interact Club.

Highlands School Junior Class Rib-Eye Steak Fundraiser Dinner March 13 • 4:30-6:30 p.m.

(Advanced ticket sales are requested. Fill out form and return to Highlands School or mail to P.O. Box 940)

Name: _____

Homeroom: _____ Phone# _____

I would love to support the Junior Class!

Please send me:

_____ tickets for an Adult at \$10 each and

_____ tickets for children under 12 for \$6 each

The total amount enclosed is \$ _____.

See you on March 13th

Please make checks payable to Highlands School.

... PLANNING continued from page 1

ly to allow phase 3 to begin. The Town Board will have the final say at the March 12 meeting.

With Cooley on board now, both the Town and the Planning boards are trying to put to rest many land use issues which have been on the back burner.

Issues include: overbuilding on 3/4-acre and bigger lots; parking, making the town pedestrian-friendly, time-limits for reviewing development plans and impact fees. Watershed issues were first up.

"It just doesn't make sense if the purpose is to protect the watershed because run-off from one-acre, if built to the edges of the property, would be more than a 1/4-acre lot," said member Pat Taylor. "If there are no restrictions on 3/4-acre and 1-acre lots, how are we protecting the watershed?"

Cooley said as it is now, watershed rules aren't being applied to all lots, just the nonconforming lots. "If protecting the watershed is what it's about, then it should be the same across the board," he said. "It's the impervious surfaces that affect the water quality."

Member Thomas Craig said the reason people build the most house they can on the property is simply because land is so valuable in Highlands.

Member Mike Bryson said he might be willing to reconsider the watershed percentage issue, if perhaps developers used underground cisterns to collect and route water runoff.

But Member Ricky Bryson said he read an article recently where that practice was being done in Atlanta, and people were actually hording water in cisterns, thereby preventing neighbors from receiving it via normal run-off procedures.

Other discussion points included the need to work with developers.

"OEI came to us each step of the way like we asked them to and we still made

everything very difficult for them," said Mike Bryson.

Cooley said he was considering a pre-application meeting whereby developers come to him, talk about the site, talk about what they want to do and see what they can do. "We need to get conversations going," he said. "That will make it easier for everyone."

He said the town's ordinances have made it very confusing for people. "They have evolved over time, so ordinances pertaining to particular development issues are scattered throughout the ordinances and it's tough to find what's related to what," he said.

To remedy the situation, he has initiated incorporating the town ordinance in Sterlingcodifiers, Codebook Viewer or Municode so developers can search on an issue and find all related topics.

Mike Bryson suggested an ordinance disallowing a developer to clear large tracts of land at one time.

Ricky Bryson said there is an ordinance on the books that says you can't allow sediment to leave your property.

But Mike Bryson said, particularly in the mountains, if developers tear up a lot of land at one time, they can't control the erosion it makes.

There was much talk about parking and pedestrian traffic in town.

Member Thomas Craig said the parking regulations have kept people from living downtown. "We've done everything to keep people out. We need to re-look at the overall parking issue."

Cooley said a traffic circulation study is definitely needed.

But Chairman Bell said the complaint he's heard the most over the last 10 years is that downtown Highlands is too crowded. "People say there are too many cars and

• See PLANNING page 22

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HELP WANTED

THE INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP CENTER OF HIGHLANDS, NC is seeking part time administrative assistant starting May 1, 2008. Applicant must have both written and oral Spanish knowledge, must be motivated and work well with others. Basic computer skills are necessary. Additional training will be given once applicant begins. For more information please call Jill at 828-526-9938 x 290.

SERVERS AND COUNTER HELP NEEDED at SweetTreats, 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.

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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

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.

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

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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.

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.

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.

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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

SAPPHIRE MOUNTAIN CLUB - Furnished River Run II Condominium, access to all amenities! \$600 monthly plus utilities. First month and \$400 Security deposit required. Contact Kim 342-8490 -- 3/20

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 STAPT- 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

MOTOR COACH SITE -DOWNTOWN HIGHLANDS. With Cedar shake Coach House. Gated. Private. Overlooks active stream. Short walk to shopping and dining. Located at the cor. of Fifth and Chestnut Sts. For all info. visit at your leisure: www.JTIMMS.com/HIDDENCREEK or contact owner directly at 828-526-5333.

LOTS FOR SALE - .85 AC lot off Turtle Pond. Backs to USFS. Views. \$30K; .90 AC lot, drive cut in. \$30k. 2-bed septic approved. Ready to build. New shared well for both. 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.

UPPER CLEAR CREEK ROAD AT CORNET 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, FLORIDA - Cleared, buildable with all services. Last unimproved lot in Silver Shores subdivision. \$599,900. For information and photos call Frank (954) 964-7649 or email ft442@bellsouth.net.

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.

ANTIQUe 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

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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 Vitale 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.

SEII 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.

ANTIQUE 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.

ANTIQUE 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.

ANTIQUE BEAMS, FLOORING AND STRUCTURES: Hand hewn beams in oak and yellow pine. Beautiful material, large faces, \$3.50-\$4 per board foot. Original, reclaimed white and yellow pine flooring, random wide widths (6-16") \$6/board ft. Also selling entire log and timber frame structures. 215-529-7637 (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

2002 TOYOTA LANDCRUISER, Blk/tan leather, NAV, wood-grain, 6 CD, 80,400 miles w/ ext. warranty to 116k miles. \$25,000.

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.

BUSINESSES FOR SALE

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

LOST

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.

• HOSPITAL NEWS •



Highlands Cardiologist Carl Curtiss, MD, FACC, talks with Nin Bond and Pamela Miller of Highlands during last Thursday's open house at HealthTracks, the fitness and healthy lifestyle program at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. The open house, which featured a light brunch, a healthy cooking demonstration, and a chance to talk with Curtiss and other health experts, was part of a series of educational events being held during American Heart Month (February), which also included two mini-heart fairs.

... STOLEN continued from page 1

"They knew what they were doing because they didn't get fried doing it," said Town Engineer Lamar Nix. About 7,200 volts run through the adjacent lines so if the lines touched, someone could have gotten hurt.

Nix thinks the thief cut and rolled the line as he went along to stay in control of the line and keep from getting hurt.

Not long ago the same thing happened to Haywood Electric over the Georgia line but on a bigger scale. Nix said thieves killed the power grid for some distance. Nix said typically remote places are hit first.

"The fact that this theft didn't bring our system down indicates that our system is sound," said Nix. The ground lines were able to accept the missing neutral's load.

Over the years, the town has slowly been replacing copper lines with new line because copper tinsel strength diminishes over time which can compromise the electric system. Last time line was replaced, the town saw a profit of \$7,000 from selling

the old copper on the market.

Recently, copper jumped to its highest price since May 2006 as a decline in the dollar sparked purchases of commodities by investors as a hedge against inflation. Copper used in pipes and wires has climbed 27 percent this year.

The price has more than quadrupled in the past five years as consumption surges in China, the world's biggest metals buyer. Officials say metals used in China will continue to be robust as the world's fastest-growing major economy builds more homes, cars and appliances.

Nix notified the Town Board Wednesday night of the theft.

"I want you to be aware of what's happening and to be on the look-out for anything or anyone that looks out of the ordinary," he said. He said he will be filing a police report and it will be up to the police to discover where the market is for local copper and perhaps track down the thief.

• MIRROR LAKE REFLECTIONS •

Well, the weather is doing a job on us again. These warm days we've had coaxed many of the bulbs to sprout, and the cold snaps will surely shock them. Let's hope that some of these sprouts are sturdy critters.

DOT representatives met with Town Engineer Lamar Nix on Friday, Feb. 22, so hopefully work will begin soon.

The Greenway Trail committee has

plans to upgrade the old Greenway. Eventually, there will be benches at several spots around the lake as well as other areas along the Greenway.

We welcome Drs. Patti Wheeler and Richard Olson to the Mirror Lake area. Best wishes to your new Hicks Road location.

Our next regular meeting is Monday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the civic center.

Elaine Johnson

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Beginning April 2

• Join fellow seekers for a 12-week book study group on "Awakening in Time, The Journey from Co-dependence to Co-creation" at The Conscious Connection. Using discussion, journaling, guided imagery, artwork, to release old patterns. Details: 526-8885.

On-going

- Cardio Dance Class. \$5 per calls, 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.

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 Efir Bible Study Series) Wednesday Supper begins at 5:30 with the Bible Study at 6:15 - 7:15.

• Highlands Mountain Top 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.

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, 526-8084

Friday, Feb. 29

• Highlands School is hosting a blood drive in the AnMed Blood Center's bloodmobile parked outside the school from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. High school students, teachers and the general public are invited to participate. AnMed supplies blood to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and a number of other hospitals around a three-state region. In recent years, the number of units raised in the Highlands-Cashiers area accounts for less than half the number needed to treat local patients. Hospital officials are encouraging potential donors to participate in the school's drive, which is being sponsored by the Interact Club.

Saturday, March 1

Opening night for HCP's 'Lend Me a Tenor'



Famous opera star Tito Merelli, played by Wayne Coleman, and his wife Maria, played by Diane Rosazza, make a grand entrance complete with piles of luggage carried by struggling bellhop Dean Zuch in HCP's "Lend Me a Tenor," opening Thursday, Feb. 28 and running through Sunday, March 9, at PAC in Highlands. Call 828-526-8084 for reservations.

The show opens Thursday, Feb. 28, that magical night of butterflies and suspense behind stage as the actors wait for their opening cues and the audience files in ready to laugh and enjoy. For this play is a comedy, a rollicking one by Ken Ludwig with an experienced cast of Highlands Community Players ready to entertain.

Lend Me a Tenor involves an opening night as well. World famous tenor Tito Merelli, played by Wayne Coleman, is scheduled to sing at a gala fund raiser for the Cleveland Grand Opera. Opera manager Henry Saunders (Bob Tietze) orders his assistant Max (Stuart Armor) to keep a close eye on Merelli, who has a weakness for wine and women. Female fans of the great tenor can seldom resist his romantic charms, much to the disgust of his long-suffering wife, Maria, played with wonderful comic flair by Diane Rosazza.

Needless to say, Max fails in his watchdog duties and shortly before the opera performance, it appears that Merelli will not be able to go on. A wild and

funny scramble ensues, as management tries to find another tenor.

Lend Me a Tenor is directed by Annette Coleman, assisted by Carol Lucas. It is sponsored, in part, by WHLC-Radio. Rounding out the cast are Breta Stroud, playing Max's girlfriend, Carla Gates, a soprano scheduled to sing with Tito; Jody Read, chairman of the Opera Guild; and Dean Zuch, a bellhop. Kathryn Evans designed the set; contractor Bill Futral supervised construction.

Lend Me a Tenor will be presented at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center Feb. 28 through Sunday, March 9, evenings at 7:30 p.m., Sunday matinees, at 2:30 p.m. Individual tickets are \$15 for adults, \$8 for students, and \$12 each person for groups of 15 or more except on opening night. Reservations may be held by VISA or Mastercard. The box office, 828-526-8084, will be open at PAC from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., except on Sundays, when it will open at 1:30 p.m. before the matinees.

Please note it is rated PG 13, as it contains a few adult situations.

Ruby Cinemas

Hwy. 441, Franklin • 524-2076

Feb. 29-March 6

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN
rated R

Winner - Best Picture, Best Supporting Actor, Winner - Best Director, Winner - Best Adapted Screen Play

Fri: (4:15), 7, 9:15

Sat & Sun: (2), (4:15), 7, 9:15

Mon - Thurs: (4:15), 7

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

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), 9:10

Sat & Sun: (4:10), 9:10

Mon - Thurs: (4:10)

JUMPER

rated PG-13

Fri: 7:10

Sat & Sun: (2:10), 7:10

Mon - Thurs: 7:10

• 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.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 4-mile moderate hike up Satulah Mtn. with an elevation change of 500 feet. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 10 a.m. Drive 2 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people. Call leader Virginia Talbot, 526-4904, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Sunday, March 2

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 2.5-mile hike on the Bartram Trail from

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Wallace Branch, including a couple of side trails. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 p.m. Drive 8 miles round trip. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Wednesday, March 5

• The new "Be a Good Neighbor Committee" will hold an educational meeting, discussing all the opportunities for recycling in Macon County. Wednesday at 1 p.m. in the meeting room of the Macon County Public Library on Siler Road, Franklin. The public is invited. For more information, contact Debby Boots at 349-5201.

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.

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

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, 526-8084.

Friday, March 7

• Amercian Red Cross Blood Drive at South Macon Elementary School Blood Drive (Addington Bridge Road; Franklin, NC) noon pm to 5 p.m. Please call Sandy Keener at 524-9492 for more information or to schedule an appointment. All presenting donors can enter a drawing for a cruise for two! Eligible blood donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in general good health. Donors must have a form of positive identification in order to donate.

Tennessee Jed coming to ITC



Tennessee Jed and Molly from his new CD Acoustica.

Every once in a blue moon a magic band comes together. Usually they are made up of those backup musicians that make superstars sound so good.

Tennessee Jed has assembled one of those bands. Eric Chesson (guitar), Jason Patrick (bass), and Tennessee Jed (lead vocal and guitar) were all members of the Jason Michael Carroll band (Billboard's #1 new country artist of 2007). There is Charlie Chamberlain (mandolin) who was a founding member of Asheville's bluegrass band Steel String Theory, and toured Europe with the modern country group, The Ranchhands.

Fiddle and Banjo player Joe Troop originally with Chapel Hill bluegrass band, Big Fat Gap, has spent the last several years playing jazz and swing fiddle in Japan and Europe. Drummer Dave Markham plays drums for country recording artist, Bryan Davis. Put all these incredible artists together, with a fresh, modern take on traditional folk and Bluegrass music and sparks fly.

Tennessee Jed is an acclaimed singer, songwriter and guitarist born in Tennessee, and now hails from North Carolina. His roots were bluegrass, country and folk which he still loves, but he was raised on Led Zeppelin and the Grateful Dead. All these influences come soaring in with music that remind us of Charlie Daniel's meets Marshall Tucker Band with the occasional ting of reggae. You might even detect a hint of Lyle Lovett in the mix. The short of it is, affectionados of traditional bluegrass will love the music, traditional country and folk will love it, old southern rock will love it and the new generation of bluegrass and country will really love it.

Tennessee Jed and his band will play one performance in "the best little concert hall in western North Carolina" the Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main at 310 Main Street Oak Square in Highlands, at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 8. All tickets are \$15. For reservations, which are strongly suggested, call 828-342-9197.

Playhouse announces exciting lineup to commemorate 70 years of entertainment

In 2008 Highland's Playhouse will celebrate its 70th Anniversary. The Playhouse has a long tradition of presenting the best live entertainment and this season will be no different. We are still working on the details of the 2008 season but we promise you first rate performances that will celebrate the rich history of the past 70 years. We are pleased to announce the following shows:

June 19-July 6: Always Patsy Cline

July 10-20: On Golden Pond

July 24-Aug. 10: 70th Anniversary Diamond Review

Aug. 14-31: Inherit the Wind

The 70th Anniversary Diamond Review is a show that exemplifies the best kind of entertainment from our past. This show is being developed and written by

Mr. DaMon Goff

and Mr. Sam Dun-

away, both of

whom are familiar

to Playhouse goers

of the last three seasons.

It also is a

nod to the generosity

of Drake's Diamond

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Among the various fundraising events this year we are very proud to announce that our Fourth Annual Antique Show is coming home to Highlands in September!

These are exciting times for the Highland's Playhouse and we would love for you to be a part of the 2008 season. Auditions for the upcoming season will be very soon and we hope that our community will take this opportunity to display the wealth of talent and shine! Also, don't forget that season tickets are a great gift idea! Purchase the ticket and the recipient can

call at his convenience to make reservations. We look forward to a wonderful season and truly hope you will be a part of our celebration.

For further information or reservations please call 828-526-2695 or write P. O. Box 896 in Highlands.

Saturday, March 8

• Tennessee Jed and his band will play one performance in "the best little concert hall in western North Carolina" the Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main at 310 Main Street Oak Square in Highlands, at 8 p.m. All tickets are \$15. For reservations, which are strongly suggested, call 828-342-9197.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6 mile hike in Oconee State Park and on the SC Foothills Trail to Long Mtn. Fire Tower, Tamasee Knob, and the old water wheel in the park. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9 a.m. Drive 45 miles round trip. If coming from Franklin, call leader for alternate car pool meeting place. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Doug Deane, 864-718-9265, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Sunday, March 9

• "Sing in the Spring" concert at First Presbyterian Church in collaboration with the WCU music department faculty showcase at 4 p.m. Star

vocal students will perform. It's free with a reception to follow.

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 stare 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."

Tuesday, March 11

• Free lectures at Cashiers Chiropractic and Wellness Center. "Eating Out: Making the right choices." To register, call either the Highlands office at 526-3709 or the Cashiers office at 743-9070.

Thursday, March 13

• See EVENTS page 20

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

• Highlands School PTO and Junior Class Rib-eye Steak Dinner fundraiser at 4:30 to 6:30. Adults are \$10 and children under 12 are \$6. Reservations required. Call 526-2147.

Saturday, March 15

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 4.5 mile hike from Sloan Bridge to Upper Whitewater Falls with beautiful wintertime

views along the way. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10 a.m. Drive 14 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettle, 743-1079, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Sunday, March 16

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.5-mile hike around the historic Tessentee Farm, preserved by the Little Tennessee Land Trust. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitors' Center on Hwy. 441 near Otto. Drive 6 miles round trip. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations or more

information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

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. Tickets are \$55 and help support wildlife management on public,

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... SCHOOLS continued from page 1

he thanked Leatherman for his continued support for education in Macon County.

The first speaker was Western Carolina University Professor Dr. Mary Jean Herzog. Herzog teaches both undergraduate and graduate classes in education through the Department of Educational Leadership. One of her areas of interest is rural education.

Herzog presented summaries of research that claim smaller schools are safer, have lower incidences of violence and vandalism, and that students in these schools have a higher sense of belonging than those in larger schools.

The graduation rates are higher in smaller schools, and there is also an increase in the percentage of students that go on to post-secondary education. Herzog said that better grades are seen in smaller schools, and the dropout rate is less than their larger counterparts.

Additionally, there is greater teacher satisfaction, increased participation in extracurricular activities, and more community involvement seen in smaller schools according to Herzog's sources.

But what is a "small school?" Herzog cited a publication by the Department of Public Instruction that stated that while there is no ideal number of students to designate a small school, there are some guidelines on the ideal size for safety, climate and order in schools.

For elementary schools, 300-400 students is apparently a good number. In middle schools the number is from 300-600 students, while high schools should have from 400-800 students to be a small school.

Herzog said that these numbers come from research that looked at the number of students who entered each type of school and compared this figure with the number of students who graduated. The percentage of graduates was much higher in small schools.

Roberta Swank brought data that listed the current number of students at a few of the county's schools, as well as the projected number when the new 5-6 middle school and North Macon Elementary School are in operation. "Right now there are 413 students at East Franklin," Swank said, but after the fifth grade is moved to the new school there will only be 342 students there.

According to Swank, at Macon Middle there are currently 904 students, and that number will be reduced to 608 after the sixth grade goes to the new middle school. The North Macon School would have 384 students, just slightly more than the combined total of students at both Cowee and Iotla today which is 326.

Swank also said that when fifth graders are moved from Cartoogechaye their numbers will decrease from 398 students to 326, and South Macon will go from 562 students down to 491. "These will still be small schools," she said.

Recently Superintendent of Schools Dan Brigman explained that the closing of Cullasaja Elementary, and Cowee Elementary and the redistricting will allow for Cullasaja students to attend the newly updated East Franklin Elementary. "Seating capacity gained at each of the K-4 schools following construction of the new school at Iotla would also allow greater choice to parents within the Franklin area," he said.

Commissioner Davis said that Herzog's data concerning performance was mostly irrelevant because it was heavily based on statistics from high schools alone, while what is being discussed in Macon County mostly pertains to elementary schools and their consolidation.

Macon Middle teacher Darlene McDowell talked about how students who go to classes in trailers and mobile classrooms feel segregated from the rest of the students. "They don't have an intercom to these classrooms, and students can't hear the fire drills," McDowell said.

Macon Middle Principal Todd Gibbs added that schools with mobile classrooms lack security. Students also have to walk through rain and mud to get to these classrooms. Additionally, there is a security problem. "When I was at South Macon, there was a murder on North Skeenah Road. We were able to lock down the school and make sure that no one could get in," he said.

Members of the community had many questions about why the existing elementary schools of Cullasaja and Cowee couldn't be renovated and brought up to modern standards. Commissioner Davis said that the cost to renovate is prohibitive not only because of the need for updated water, sewer and other infrastructure, but also because the federal government requires that 25% of the money being spent on renovations has to go to updating the older buildings to meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

When asked why East Franklin was renovated, Commissioner Beale said that the infrastructure was already in place, which saved a lot of money on the renovations. East Franklin is connected to city water and sewer in Franklin while Cullasaja and Cowee are not.

Beale said that these two schools are landlocked and there is no additional land near them that could be purchased to expand the schools. "The septic tank at Cowee is under the playground," Beale said, and Cullasaja School has an older facility on site to process the waste. It was built in the 1940s it is extremely out of date. "If Cullasaja was inspected today it would be shut down yesterday because of its water and sewage issues," said Commissioner Davis. Cullasaja is also very close to the Cullasaja River, which is another issue with its sewage.

Commissioner Davis reminded the public that the bond referendum wasn't

to decide whether or not the new schools would be built, but instead to determine where the funding would come from.

"Frankly, the School Board had 10 public meetings about the bond referendum that were not very well-attended. Some don't want these smaller schools to be consolidated, but that horse has already left the barn; we have to do that," Davis said.

Franklin High School teacher John deVille asked if bussing fifth graders was the wisest decision when it had the potential to replicate the current situation at Macon Middle. "We live in a different society and a different culture, and it's irresponsible not to take that into account when it could augment the already deteriorating households these kids are coming from."

Beale said that he had come up with the idea of a 5-6 middle school after a three-day stint eating lunch in the Macon Middle cafeteria. "I was trying to figure out how to fix that," he said. Swank added that fifth and sixth graders gel much better than eighth graders and sixth graders.

Other concerns that deVille expressed were the possibility that the new 5-6 school could become a "miniature version of Macon Middle," and the fact that parents are not as involved. Gibbs maintained that the education is the same whether it's at a smaller school or a bigger school, citing his own children as examples. "The one that went to Union Elementary got the same education as the one that attended South Macon," he said.

Cabe added that years ago no one wanted to close Pine Grove School and move those students to the "big school" at Cullasaja, but "It had to be done."

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 11

Correspondingly, there is something else that Jesus says each day has enough of: trouble. Like Worley, I have tried to carry burdens, worries and concerns that were not meant to be part of today's load. I have crumbled under the weight of trying to bear another day's burdens along with the current day's troubles which are enough to handle by themselves.

Recently, I experienced one such melting moment. When I cried out to Jesus, He gently reminded me that I was trying to bear more than He had really given me for the day. I thought of His life here on earth and realized that even though Jesus was aware of the cross, He did not bear that day's anguish and the pain everyday up to that moment. Not until the Garden of Gethsemane did He carry that day's trouble. "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Matthew 6:3

Let's follow His example and His instruction. Let's take each day, (our bread and our burdens) one at a time.

Beale also pointed out that the only property that had to be bought for these plans was the property for the 5-6 school. The county already owned the property where East Franklin and Iotla School are located, and the land is already paid off.

The issue of school busses was also discussed, but Swank said that the bus

• See SCHOOLS page 22

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... SCHOOLS continued from page 21

routes aren't really going to change; the students will just be dropped off at different schools. She also encouraged the caring parents and community members to volunteer at schools and to become active in their schools' PTOs. Swank also mentioned that at every Board of Education there is time set aside for public comment, and anyone is welcome to come and voice opinions.

Commissioner Leatherman closed the meeting by talking about how the number one concern of the commissioners and the Board of Education is for the students. "The job of a teacher is to prepare a student for life: it's more than just multiplication tables and conjugating

verbs," he said.

"The kids deserve the best: I'll build 11 new schools, but that means we'd need 11 libraries, cafeterias and gymnasiums. We have to deal with the practicality," Leatherman said. "Teachers deal with issues that most others wouldn't want to touch, and they do it with caring and compassion. The bond referendum was for funding only; the decision had already been made," he said.

Leatherman added that he had filed for reelection, and that if voters weren't happy with him and the decisions he had made, they were welcome to vote against him.

The next meeting will be in March.

... PLANNING continued from page 15

too many people on the streets and sidewalks. We have to improve the ways to access the retail shops. That and real estate are the engines that drive the economy. We have to improve pedestrian ways around town and that will help the town," he said.

Craig said part of that problem has to do with the width of Highlands' sidewalks and the fact that there aren't ways to "journey" from parking areas to the downtown area in a comfortable fashion. He said if it can't be done comfortably, people won't do it. He also said the merchants on the 4th Street hill are considering a trolley that could make a loop through town and drop people off in various places.

The displaying of outdoor merchandise will be discussed at the March 12 Town Board meeting because so many merchants are dissatisfied with the board's recent decision to nix all but four categories of outdoor merchandise.

"I like a little color on Main Street," said Ricky Bryson.

The board also agreed that it wanted to amend the Time Limit for Review of Plans in the ordinance which currently limits the Planning Board time to 32 days as well as impose impact fees on developers.

The board will continue discussing its priorities at its March 10 meeting.

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... THANK YOUs continued from page 2

Emergency Council is thankful

Highlands Emergency Council attempts to say "Thank You" to all the generous people of Highlands. The outpouring of care and assistance from the year round and seasonal residents has been fantastic in 2007-2008.

The Christmas program was most successful due to the contributions of the special groups and clubs, the sponsorship of church circles and the press coverage by both newspapers. WHLC radio coverage as well kept everyone reminded of our needs. The responses to the bank giving trees were wonderful as usual.

The Men of First Presbyterian Church and the Hispanic painters gave our building a much needed face-lift this fall.

The town crew provides much needed muscle at the warehouse.

We were fortunate to receive a grant from the Western North Carolina Foundation ear-marked for fuel assistance.

Tis' the Season alternative gift fair 2007 resulted in many fuel assistance donations as did the letter written on our behalf by Scott Paxton. Many churches and individuals support us on a regular basis. We depend greatly on these dear ones. Each of us knows how the cost of fuel has increased this year. Because you care we have served 27 clients with fuel assistance, 18 senior citizens households and 9 households with young children.

The tireless volunteers who serve day after day and week after week deserve heartfelt appreciations. Their dedication to our mission is quite obvious.

Aren't we fortunate to live in this special community consisting of so many with generous hearts for their fellow man and who care deeply for each other?

May God bless each of you and your precious spirit of giving.

The Emergency Council Board of Directors
PO Box 974
Highlands, NC 28741

Mary Anne Creswell, Secretary

The Junior Class enjoys this fundraiser every year because it is so special for the students. You should be proud of your support, and again, we THANK YOU!

Casey Jenkins
President, Class of 2009

Clarks say 'thanks'

The family of Louise Margaret Clark, who passed away on Thursday, Feb. 21, 2008, wishes to thank the Highlands community, local churches, fire and rescue paramedics, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital staff, and Bryant-Grant Funeral Home for all their help, support, donations and condolences at this difficult time. Words alone cannot express our appreciation.

The Clark Family

... BRUGGER from pg 6

learn the right lesson from this, and what is the lesson? The lesson is liberals are to be defeated. You cannot walk across the aisle with them. You cannot reach across the aisle."

Paul Krugman wrote this in an article last week: "Jimmy Carter, who began his administration with words of uplift — 'Let us create together a new national spirit of unity and trust' — ended up delivering America into the hands of the hard right."

Why are we so enamored of change and outsiders? Maybe it's the sad state our politics has sunk to, government sold to the highest bidder. But maybe it's not the people in the government who are the problem; maybe the very structure of the system itself leads to inevitable corruption. A political messiah can't lead us out of this morass; it will take a movement by the people.

All of Katie Brugger's columns are available on her website:
www.kathleenbrugger.com

... ANOTHER VIEW continued from page 5

From HS students

Highlands School Class of 2009 would like to thank all the students, parents, faculty and staff at Highlands School for making the Valentine's Day Flower and Candy sale so successful. Your kindness and generosity are a testament to the holiday and greatly appreciated!

The funds raised will be used for the Junior/Senior Prom being held April 12th.

We want to send a special thank you to the Little Flower Shoppe in Highlands for getting our flowers at such a great price and donating the paper to wrap the flowers, to Mountain Fresh Grocery for donating candy at the last minute when we ran out on the evening before Valentine's Day, and Adrian Holt and Chris Green for their time and efforts.

coalition which he has forged, to weigh the risks of fiscal extravagance against the benefit of government spending, to consider the risk of Iraq in flames even as he bemoans the risk to American lives and resources with a continued presence. I would tell him that it is alright to be wrong and it is fine to change one's mind. The problem is allowing one's opponent to point out his imperfections or changing one's mind, not because of new information, but to satisfy new donors. I would say, "Senator, don't try to be all things to all people. Be one thing to all of us. Be our President." I would offer that same advice to all candidates, but believe that only he, among them, might listen.

HIGHLANDS POLICE, FIRE & MACON COUNTY SHERIFF REPORTS

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the weeks of Feb. 20-27. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Feb. 20

- At 10 a.m., a resident on Harris Drive reported a window shot out with a BB gun. Damage was estimated to be \$100.

- At 7:18 p.m., a motorist at Poplar and N. 4th streets was cited for speeding 40 mph in a 25 zone.

Feb. 21

- At 11:35 a.m., a motorist at Arnold Road and N.C. 106 was cited for speeding 49 mph in a 35 zone.

Feb. 23

- At 1:05 p.m., officers found a 61-year-old male dead in his home on Upper Lake Road. Preliminary reports from the medical examiner say he died of natural causes.

Feb. 25

- At 4:15 p.m., a motorist at Oak and Second streets was cited for speeding 49 mph in a 20 zone.

Feb. 27

- At 10:30 p.m., vandalism to the EMS building on Maple Street was reported. Someone spray painted a symbol on a garage door.

- During the week officers issued 3 warning tickets and responded to 3 alarms.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Feb. 20-27

Feb. 20

- The dept. responded to an vehicle accident on U.S. 64 west. There were no injuries.

Feb. 21

- The dept. responded to an vehicle accident on Hide-Away Trail. It was cancelled en route.

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

- The dept. assisted in the search for two fisherman at Bull Pen.

Feb. 25

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Joe-Pye Trail. The victim was transported to the hospital.

Feb. 27

- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers to extinguish a structure fire on Yellow Mountain Road.

The following is the Macon County Sheriff Dept. log entries for the Highlands Township for the week of Jan. 27- Feb. 24

Jan. 27

- At noon, a resident on Blue Valley Road reported the amethyst stolen from the property.

Feb. 21

- At 5 p.m., a citizen reported embezzlement of funds through the use of a VISA debit card.

Feb. 24

- At 4 p.m., a resident on Dog Mountain Road reported a breaking and entering. Nothing was reported missing.

Middle-school girl dies by hanging

On Sunday February 25, officers with the Macon County Sheriff's Office responded to a residence where a mother found her daughter Sarah Leann Beck, 13, deceased. Detectives, as well as the medical examiner were called to the home where they initiated an investigation. During the course of the next 24 hours, detectives conducted numerous interviews with friends, students and staff with the Macon County School system.

During the investigation the following findings were determined:

- At approximately 11:30 p.m., the mother found her daughter located in the child's bedroom closet.

- The Medical Examiner's Office has determined that the child's death was caused by "asphyxiation due to accidental hanging".

- During the past couple of weeks the deceased child had knowledge and spoken with friends about an activity that is known as "the choking game".

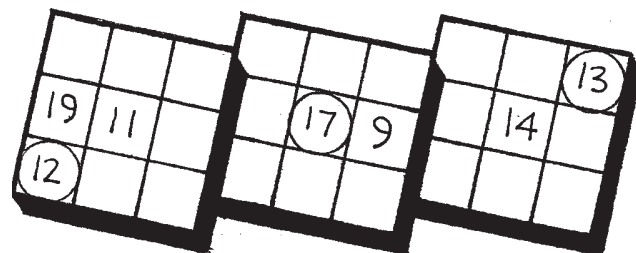
- Students learned about the "Choking Game" from other students and were informed on how to play it.

- According to some of the interviews conducted, the deceased admitted that she had participated in what is being called the "choking game" and had done so as recently as in the past couple of weeks.

"While this activity has been routinely called the choking game, we want to stress that this is NO game. If you play it, Death is a real possibility," said Holland. "We pray that presenting the facts publicly may prevent another family from dealing with a tragedy such as this."

• FUN & GAMES •

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DZ2D - Level of Difficulty - Moderate

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.

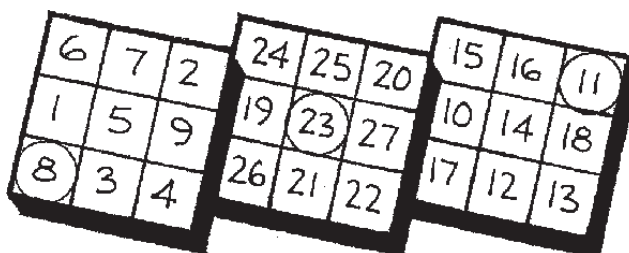
THE CHALLENGE:

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

Solution to #BZ1D in Feb. 21 issue



N-Cryptoku[©]

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
"Cover (furniture)"

Across

- Edgar Allen ____ (3)
- Soak (3)
- Creative work (Latin) (4)
- Pistol holder (7)
- Freight truck make (3)

Down

- Legal proceedings (3)
- Exclamation! (2)
- Ripped (4)
- Conjunction (2)
- ___art (2)

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Solution to Feb. 21 puzzle

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

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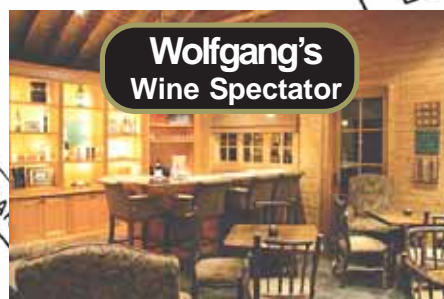
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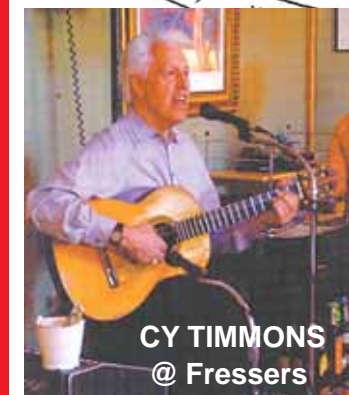
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1 Cyprus	1 Acorns	1 Century 21
2 Fressers	2 AnnaWear	2 Country Club
3 Golden China	3 Bear Mt. Outfit.	3 John Cleaveland
4 Log Cabin	4 Chintz Antiques	4 John Schiffl
5 Madison's	5 Dry Sink	5
6 Oak St Cafe	6 JacksonMadeleine	Galleries
7 Paoletti	7 Raspberry 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