

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 7, Number 18

PDF Version - www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, April 30, 2009

This Week in Highlands

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park, 8-9 a.m. \$10 per class or \$50 a month.

Mondays

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

Fridays & Saturdays

• At Highlands Wine & Cheese, at Falls on Main, complimentary wine samplings during business hours.

Saturdays

• At Highlands Wine & Cheese, Falls on Main, Wine Flights from 4-6:30 p.m. Five wines, artisan cheeses and specialty foods. \$19 per person.

Thursday, April 30

• At Cyrano's Book Shop, author Susan Rebecca White will sign copies of Bound South from 3-5 p.m.

Friday-Sunday, May 1-3

• "Wine and Dine on the Mountain" Weekend Call 866-526-8008.

Friday, May 1

• Mountain Findings opens for the season. Monday-Saturday, 10-5.

Saturday, May 2

• MC Rabies Vaccination Clinic at Highlands Community Building from 1-2:30 p.m., with Dr. Amy Patterson and 3-4 p.m. at the Scaly Mountain Post Office. \$5 per pet - cash Only! No checks! Please remember to keep pets in vehicles, on leashes or in carriers.

Sunday, May 3

• First Presbyterian Church will host an old-fashioned hymn-sing at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Participants can choose hymns from the 1938 Cokesbury Hymnal. Song leader is Stel Huie and Angie Jenkins will play the piano.

Thurs.-Sun., May 7-10

• Rumors can be seen at PAC. Because of language and themes, it is appropriate for mature audience only. For tickets call the box office at 828-526-8084 or visit online at highlandscashiersplayers.org

Thursday, May 7

• "Cats and Dogs Bingo" 6:30 - 8:30 at the Highlands Community Building - next to the ballpark at Hwy 64 and Poplar Street. \$1 per card per game. Half proceeds go to winners, half to CHHS.

• Team Captain's meeting for the August 2009 Mountaintop Relay For Life at 5:30 p.m. on Level 1 of the Jane Woodruff Clinic on the campus of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Call Linda Henderson at 743-3295.

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
65 / 47F	68 / 48F	67 / 49F

Brigman foregoes scheduled pay increase

Macon County Schools Superintendent Dan Brigman's contract called for a 12% pay increase at the end of three years but before the board could act, Brigman made the call.

"According to his contract, he is eligible for a salary increase beginning July 1, but prior to today's meeting he told me he was voluntarily foregoing the increase," said School Board Chairman Jim Breedlove, at Monday night's meeting.

Due to the state of the general economy, as well as the school district budget, Brigman said he wants

to postpone any action specified in the contract concerning his pay increase until the economy rights itself. Furthermore, he said the reinstatement would not be retroactive.

The school board instructed Attorney John Henning to prepare documents in agreement with Brigman's request stipulating that the increase can still go into effect with 30 days notice from Brigman.

This likely came with the latest in bad news from the state concerning school funds.

Prior to the state freezing access to Macon County Schools' state funds, the central office placed an April 1 deadline for all purchase

orders, specifically those POs funded through state allotments. Brigman said this is an annual approach to encourage principals and bookkeepers to spend state dollars first.

Around January, Macon County Schools had to send back to the state approximately \$174,000 in state funds. Shortly after, Raleigh warned of a possible second reversion - a requirement to return additional state dollars - to offset the growing shortfall in state revenue.

"Therefore, we continued to emphasize the need to spend all state dollars allocated to schools and departments prior to April 1,"

• See PAY page 6

Abandoned mobile homes; flood plain talk of meeting

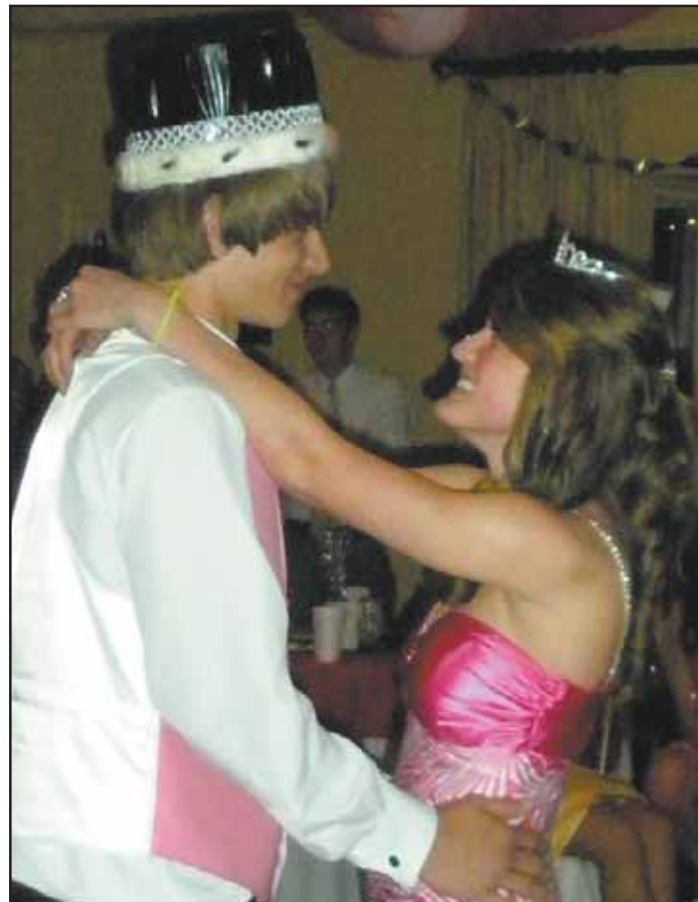
After several passes, county commissioners agreed unanimously to enact the county's new abandoned mobile home removal program effective July 1.

Basically, the voluntary program was suggested to help rid the county of the "blight" of abandoned mobile homes without putting the law to it in the form of another ordinance, said County Chairman Ronnie Beale.

To expedite the removal process, the county will budget \$12,000 per year from the general fund with those funds used to credit contractors to demolish, remove and transport the abandoned home to the county's land fill.

To ensure the county isn't subsidizing private enterprise, the board agreed to require repayment of any money credited to the property owner if the land is sold within six months after removal and if the same property isn't kept in a "sanitary state" for those six months. Sanitary state means the

King & Queen for the night



Seniors Michael Baty and Carolyn Hornsby were named King and Queen at Highlands School Junior-Senior Prom, Saturday, April 25 at the Highlands Country Club's Hudson House. For more photos see page 22.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

• See MEETING page 9

• Inside •

Letters	2
Forum	2
Wooldridge	4
Salzarulo	5
His & Hers	6
Conservative POV	7
Shop for MOM	10
Coach's Corner	11
Home Improvement Pullout 12	
From Turtle Pond	14
Classifieds	18
Police & Fire	21
HS Prom	22

Mirror Lake Sewer Project grant awarded

Mayor Don Mullen announced that the Town of Highlands has received a \$3 million grant award for the Mirror Lake Sewer Project—one of three communities to receive the maximum award amount allowed by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

A total of \$46 million was awarded statewide to 36 communities. "I am excited that Highlands was a recipient for Federal Stimulus Funds to extend sewer service to the Mirror Lake area," said Mayor Mullen. "I, along with the Town Board, am extremely grateful to our Town Manager Jim Fatland who has aggressively pursued grant funds since his hiring in January."

The Mayor also thanked the Mirror Lake Improvement Association's prompt response in providing an easement for a new sewage pump station.

Town Manager Jim Fatland said the grant award consists of a \$1.5 million with a \$1.5 million interest-free loan for 20 years. The total estimated project cost is \$3.9 million. Fatland said to be eligible for ARRA grant funding, a project must be ready to proceed quickly (shovel ready), have permits in

See MIRROR LAKE page 19

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

Lessons from tragedy



Kim Lewicki
Publisher

It's hard to get your head around the slayings outside the Town & Gown Theatre in Athens, GA, Saturday afternoon.

It's equally hard to comfort a loved one who has a connection with the victims.

When our daughter Megan was cast in the Highlands Playhouse production "Noises Off" the summer of 2006, she became intimately involved with Marie Bruce, who directed the play, Ben Teague, who worked on the set and even Tom Tanner who she was introduced to in passing.

So it was with absolute disbelief we tried to fathom the horrendous finale of Marie and the others.

Since all the cast of Noises Off, except for Megan, were from the Athens, GA area — some even members of the Town & Gown Theater group — it just made sense to build the set in Athens as well as rehearse there. Normally, all that is done in Highlands, but logistics that summer, made Athens a better choice.

Consequently, Megan lived in Athens with Marie and her two children that summer, working at her law office in a clerical position, and rehearsing with the Noises Off crew at night.

Jim spoke with Marie on set in Athens several times, I only new her by voice, prior to seeing the play in Highlands, but learned quickly that she had a big heart as she opened her home to Megan and watched over her while she stayed in Athens.

Any mother knows the relief you feel when another caring mother enthusiastically offers to take care of your child in your absence.

When I called Megan Monday morning to tell her of the tragedy she was initially confused.

"What?" "What are you saying, Mom?" "Marie is dead?" "Are the kids OK?"

Then she was inconsolably sad.

"Mom... I meant to go down there last summer and visit."

All I could muster at the time was to say I understood, that life gets in the way; that she should cherish the time she had with Marie and her children and remember them with love.

• See FORUM page 23

'Speech' is a precious freedom

Dear Editor,

While reading the April 23 issue of Highlands' Newspaper, I'm again reminded what a great newspaper I write for. You have massed together some of the most diverse writers any publisher could ask for. For sure, your paper is not boring. It's fun and interesting to read the opinions from the far right and the far left with an occasional point of view from the middle.

On the left, you have Katy and Matt and I can imagine their points of view make some folk's blood boil. On the right, there's Don and John giving an opposite point of view. I'm sure what they say has many fuming.

Maybe you could set up a public mud wrestling contest between Katy and Matt on the left versus John and Don on the right. People would pay a lot of money to see that. Isn't it wonderful to have freedom of speech? Above all else, we should guard that right.

Your paper is also professional because you don't allow your writers to attack, ridicule or take cheap shots at another writer's viewpoint. If that were allowed, it would be the end of your paper.

So keep up the outstanding work and continue to give us a free, quality newspaper that Highlands can be proud of.

Fred Wooldridge
Highlands

• LETTERS •

You got the TEA Parties all wrong

Dear Editor,

It was with interest I read your evaluation of the TEA Parties held throughout America on April 15, 2009. Your perception of the bigoted and prejudicial behavior of the participants is an insight into your political and social make-up.

I attended only one (Franklin), but viewed several covered nationally by the media. What I saw was dedicated Americans expressing their concerns and fears because of excessive and reckless spending by our Washington representatives.

I hear ignorant and uninformed persons saying "Taxes – What Taxes the President hasn't increased taxes!" Congress increases taxes. We are experiencing federal spending the likes this nation has never known. Conducted by people who can't (or won't) read the legislation they pass. Administered by folks who can't or won't pay their taxes. Then when the public and the media asks why, none of these people seem to have the answers. We hear things like "It's got to be done to save the economy." The "fiddler" will be paid in the form of increased taxes, fees, and reduced services. Problem is, much of this will fall on the shoulders of those not borne yet. And, you don't have to be a Wharton school graduate

to figure out that those who pay won't be the top 5% of the income earners who currently carry 51% of the load. Everyone will pay in added food costs, fuel, increased utilities due to Cap & Trade and the inevitable tax spread. That 51 % inequity has been the salvation of most Americans, and allows our current (and previous) administrations to grease the tracks of Congress, knowing that 5% isn't enough to unseat them, that 95% enjoys the benefits at such low taxes, plus none of them will be there when the shoe drops.

Forty percent of our stock market has vanished, 35% of the value of homes has been depleted. Home equity represents the bulk of the average person's asset base. We'll pay for the losers' homes because that's how we have always done it to save the economy? And this is just the beginning. Within the next eight years 60 million "Boomers" will retire. Not working and not paying significant taxes, all drawing SS, and no longer paying into that "over funded" reserve!

Very few of the media has the guts to discuss the reasons for our economic dilemma, either because they don't care or they are simply too stupid to understand, and it's easier to build a social straw-man about racial prejudices or how unchristian man has been to man in previous history instead of reporting the facts. I can tell you, if America survives the next 50 years, this experience will be written about in our history for the next 1,000 years.

The Liberal media ignored the TEA Parties, except for a few national and local word merchants who weren't ashamed to show their ignorance. Your political and social labeling of these people tells us readers where you live – a resident of the Dinosaur-Wing. This economic grief will expand throughout this nation's economy to reach us all – the greedy, the lame and the halt.

Well Ms. Lewicki, this will give you and the liberal intellectuals of the area a ton to shoot at, but "that's my story and I'm sticking to it."

J. Bruce Thorne
Franklin

Wake up America!

Dear Editor:

I would like to respond to your forum in part, but also to Don Twardowski's letter that ran in the April 23 edition of Highlands' Newspaper, as well. First, in your forum you credited our nation on its Christian heritage, but then try to down play it. Then telling us that many of the tea party's where about skin color?

As with most people it seems you have missed the point of the tea parties! Skin color has never been a part of the debates has it? If it has I have missed that part. To

• See LETTERS page 3

LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions. **NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands' Newspaper. Please EMAIL letters by Monday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

Highlands' Newspaper

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... LETTERS continued from page 2

deny our Christian heritage also denies our culture does it not? Times HAVE changed, but is it for the better? Right now there are two girls about to be thrown out of school for just praying for their teacher! Though I agree that race should not be a factor, I think ALL Americans are Americans no matter what their color. BUT, coming to this country has to stand for something. To come to this country the right way, not illegally! To be a melting pot of race is one thing, but to lose our very identity as a culture is another.

Take all the metals in the world like gold, silver, nickel and melt it all down in one pot what do you have then? One useless chunk of metal! All its value is gone! Melting all these cultures together depletes our values. Our heritage is one of the things that made this country great and gave it such great value, but now we can't even pray for another human being without being criminalized!

Also, like the mainstream media, some have tried to down-play these parties! Not seeing what these parties stand for, they think we are protesting paying taxes, when in fact what we are protesting is what our taxes are paying! Look at Katie Brugger for instance, she, more than once has written articles about why we should pay taxes & how it is patriotic to pay those taxes! This is all true of course, but what about what

• OBITUARY •

Charles Henry Noble III

Charles H. Noble, III, 67, Gloucester, MA died on April 23, 2009 after a long battle with cancer.

Mr. Noble attended Gloucester Public Schools and was a Graduate of The University of Massachusetts with a degree in Civil Engineering in 1963. He was the only son of Charles Noble, Jr. and Jennie (Strescino) Noble of Gloucester, MA.

Mr. Noble began his career with MassMutual Financial in Springfield, MA., and spent most of his career in Commercial Real Estate, eventually becoming President of IDS Financial Services and later an Executive Vice President with Eliot Bank in Boston. In 1992, Mr. Noble purchased The Hampton River Marina, Hampton, NH, which was later sold in 2004. He and his wife retired in Sarasota, FL where he was an accomplished golfer and sailor.

Mr. Noble is survived by his wife Cheryl Burns-Noble, of Wenham, MA and Cashiers, NC, his mother, two sons, Dr. Charles Noble IV, wife Dr. Stephanie Noble, Oxford, MS., Mark Noble of Chicopee, MA, daughter Kristen Noble, Orlando, FL and three grandchildren.

Services for Mr. Noble will be held at a later date in Gloucester, MA.

In lieu of flowers his family requests donations be made to the American Cancer Society or Hospice.

those tax dollars are being used for? This is what the tea parties were all about!

Every American should be angry that our own President stands on foreign soil and denies our own heritage! They should be angry that our Congress would spend millions of our dollars on why pig poop smells in Iowa, That is self explanatory isn't it?

Listen to a couple of quotes from one of the greatest minds that ever lived then look at the direction our country is going then you decide, should we be worried?

Thomas Jefferson made these remarks about our country in the late 1700s & early 1800s. "When we get piled upon one another in large cities, as in Europe, we shall become as corrupt as Europe." "The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work

and give to those who would not!" "It is incumbent on every generation to pay its own debt as it goes. A principle which if acted on would save one half the wars of the world." "I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." "My reading of history convinces me that most bad government results from too much government." "No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms." "The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government." "The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants."

In light of the present financial crisis, it's interesting to read what Thomas Jeffer-

• See LETTERS page 5

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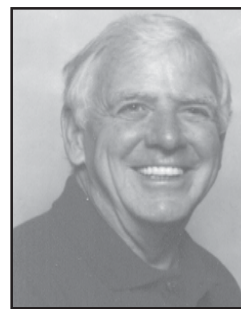


• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

It's brave to be wimpy

What's the last thing you ever hear a redneck say? "Hey guys, watch this!"

Although I find that little quip funny, it has more validity than humor. There's a thick black line between bravery and stupidity, the key word being "thick." For the record, I have redneck friends who are both brave and smart....and, yes, I make fun of them so don't write in and blast me.



Fred Wooldridge

**Feedback is encouraged!
email:**

askfredanything@aol.com

Consider this. There are those who watch "Jackass" on TV to get ideas to help them act out their lives and there are those who watch it for entertainment. Either way, viewers, mostly men, would never want to be thought of as wimps. If you're a woman and watch "Jackass" I'm bettin' you own a motorcycle, scratch a lot and spit between your teeth. Remember, watching "Jackass" builds testosterone while simultaneously lowering IQ.

What, you've never watched "Jackass"? Consider yourself lucky. I accidentally stumbled across it one day and my IQ dropped two full points before I could change the channel.

In the beginning, I was normal like all men. Huge amounts of testosterone raced through my veins and I had to prove my manhood at least once a day....sometimes more....sometimes more. Oh, I said that. Now, seven decades later, I know exactly who I am and have nothing to prove.

I'm an ex-brave self-made wimp and lovin' every minute of it. I'm a wimp by choice because I'm soooo tired of being brave and macho. I would still come to the rescue of a police officer, but other than that, my only goals are to live in peace and make the li'l missus love me more than she does. Happy wife, happy life!

I've always been comfortable in my skin. I never dreamed of being a super hero or stupid stuff like that. I could wrestle with drug dealers in the morning and change my kid's diapers that afternoon. I could hang clothes on the line before going to work to serve a search warrant. I once slugged it out with a bad guy and later helped an old lady into her wheelchair, then raced to a PTA meeting at my kid's school with blood on my shirt. I could always make the transition from policeman to husband/father during my drive home on I-95. The li'l missus thought I did that well but she's prejudiced.

By choice, I've become the ultimate weenie. I play bridge for entertainment because someone told me whoever can count to thirteen the best will win the game. They were right and I'm having fun with that even though I haven't managed to get the count right yet.

I also enjoy gardening, the ballet and chamber music, all wimpy stuff. But, under the right circumstances, I could still place the cross-hairs of a sniper rifle on a man's head and, on command, blow it off his shoulders and sleep good that evening. It has nothing to do with being brave or wimpy; it's about discipline and training. I'm still disciplined.

I no longer yearn for a burglar to break into my home at night. I don't carry a gun, even though I'm certified and

licensed to do so. I figured after twenty years of retirement without one single attack on my life, it's safe to put it away. Besides, I'm getting so old that someone might take it away from me and shove it....well, use your imagination.

Recently, the li'l missus and I were returning from a South Florida play, another wimpy activity, when we spotted a man dressed in dark clothing and hat carrying a ladder in a dark part of our immediate neighborhood.

Whoa! Does that need checking out, or what? But now that I'm a total weenie, I was reluctant to approach him in fear he would be armed and put an end to my wimp-hood with one bullet to my head. Remember, there's a thick black line between brave and stupid. At this point the li'l missus, not thinking he might be armed, is pushing my buttons, suggesting I take action. I finally did and, fortunate for us, it turned out to be a neighbor.

Then I thought about all the unarmed people of the world who do brave things and risk their lives without all the protections given to a policeman. It's easy to be brave when you're packin' and have the full support of government. But how about the store clerk who wrestles a gun from a robber to save the money in the register that isn't even his? Is he brave or stupid?

Being a weenie is good. Years ago I was at a BiLo grocery store waiting in a long check-out line. A much younger man in front of me took offense to where I was standing in his line and made several nasty remarks. I could tell he was itching for a fight. I moved my position, hoping to appease him but it didn't help. He continued with his ugly remarks so I pulled out my eyeglasses and put them on. "Hey, never hit an old man wearing glasses," I joked. He didn't think it was funny and continued to be ugly so I changed lines to get away from him.

As we're loading groceries into our car, the li'l missus asked, "Are you carrying a gun?" I nodded I was. "I thought so," she responded. "You're always more wimpy when you have a gun hidden on you."

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Sometimes good is the best you can do

The release of CIA memos made big news last week. The memos dealt with "harsh Interrogation techniques" or "torture," depending on one's point of view.

Most folks in Seneca, S.C. applauded vigorous interrogation of known or suspected terrorists and decried the release of the memos and a ban placed on the use of those techniques in the future. It is reminiscent of steps taken in the 70s to gut the CIA, which hamstrung our intelligence gathering capabilities for years.

There are several important questions. Is torture an effective means of gathering important information? I can't speak for James Bond or for a dedicated Islamic terrorist, but I'm sure that I would sing like a Viennese choir boy if someone started driving bamboo spikes under my finger nails. I'd like to think that I could limit my responses to name, rank, and serial number, while instructing my interrogators on the nuances of the Geneva Conventions, but I sincerely doubt it.

Opponents of torture claim that subjects will lie under interrogation and will say anything, just to make the pain stop. I, for one, would dread the next session with my torturer after he discovered that I had lied. So, yeah, I suspect that torture is at least somewhat effective in gaining valuable information, especially when bits of information from numerous subjects are compared.

One must then ask if the value of the information is worth the cost to obtain it.

In general, a country would have legitimate concern that if it tortured the enemies combatants, the enemy might be inclined to respond in kind. Our Islamic foes have shown no reluctance to torture, maim, and murder. They were hard at work sawing off heads with dull blades long before photos from Abu Ghraib and leaks from Guantanamo Bay surfaced.

With this enemy at least, we need not fear that abusive treatment of their detainees will lead to torture of ours. There is, however, a greater cost. Are we willing, or should we be willing, to sacrifice American values to gain information which might or might not save American lives and those of our allies?

We risk not only ripping our own precious fabric, but abdicating the moral leadership of the world, which has been a valuable asset in achieving justice and maintaining order. We are not viewed as



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.
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favorably as we once were either by friends or enemies. Our allies shudder at our arrogance. Our Islamic enemies gain new recruits every time we disrobe a prisoner or defile a copy of the Qu ran.

The Muslim world is more than willing to believe the worst of us and there may be greater danger in that than in failing to prevent a fully loaded airliner from crashing into a skyscraper. The enemy can use our words and exploit

our actions to mobilize the Muslim world against us. Justified or not, that is a profound danger to our civilization.

There are certainly times when the potential cost of interrogation pales compared to the value of information obtained, for example in locating a nuclear bomb in New York City or Highlands, N.C., before it detonates. On the other hand, knowledge that three low-level Al Qaeda operatives are having tea in a remote Afghanistan village is of very little value and we shouldn't employ a thumb screw to find out if they're adding sugar.

The problem is determining in which cases the value of torture outweighs the cost. In some cases, the CIA can't possibly know until it has exerted a little pressure.

My hope is that President Obama had his fingers crossed when he banned the use of torture. Like military force, it should be used only after other means have been exhausted and it should be used with clear-cut goals in mind. And above all, it must be used in secret. If it is suspected or discovered, we must deny, deny, deny. If in the end, a few FBI, CIA, or DIA agents must be made scapegoats, that is a terrible shame, but it is the cost of freedom.

We can never admit aloud that we value our survival more that we cherish or ideals, but we must ensure one while retaining the other. If that sometimes requires a little torture, OK. But don't boast of it. Don't claim that because the other guy does it, it's justifiable for us. Don't assume that Imperial America can do as it pleases, because no enemy has the might to challenge us. Remember that a bomb in a crowded mall or an attack on an airliner can slowly bleed us. There is no shortage of bombs or jihadists to deliver them.

I hate to support torture, but the task of preserving Western Civilization has fallen to us. I wish we could be perfect, but if we can only be good, then good will have to do.

... LETTERS from page 3

son said in 1802, "Banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies. If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of their currency, first by inflation, then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around the banks will deprive the people of all property until their children wake-up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered."

Wake up America! Where are we headed?

Johnny Owens, Highlands

• See LETTERS page 14



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... PAY continued from page 1

said Brigman.

All schools, except for Nantahala started spring break on Friday, April 3. At 5 p.m., Monday, April 13, the day administration returned to work, Brigman received a formal email notice from the State Budget Office and the Department of Public Instruc-

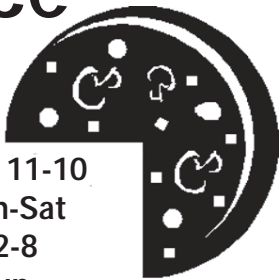
tion citing an immediate halt on all state accounts. Any outstanding POs that could not have been completed with materials delivered to the school or district by April 16 were to be cancelled.

In addition, all vacancies and/or hiring

• See PAY page 20

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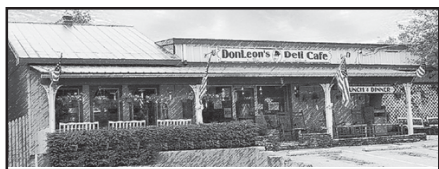
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• HIS & HERS •

Homeland Security's unsecure secretary

by John Armor

Today comes news that the Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano, is replacing Roger Mackin with Phillip Mudd. Who? What? So?

Roger Mackin was the undersecretary for intelligence and analysis. He was responsible for the memo issued just before the 750+ Tea Parties attended by 1 million+ Americans. You know that memo, which said people who oppose abortion, attend church, and own legal guns are potential terrorists. And don't forget that it also said veterans returning from Iraq or Afghanistan are risky, too.

Before talking about that appalling memo, let's back up a minute. What is the purpose of the Homeland Security Department? It is to protect Americans in their homes, businesses, schools and shopping malls from being slaughtered by (mostly) Islamofascists who have announced their intentions to keep killing Americans, as they did on 9/11.

It is NOT the purpose of Homeland Security to keep President Barack Obama safe in the political polls by creating factually baseless attacks against people who are perceived as his political opponents. Anyone who thinks in terms of protecting the President's political stances, rather than protecting the lives of ordinary Americans should NOT be drawing a paycheck from Homeland Security. So, good riddance to Mr. Mackin.

And welcome to Mr. Mudd, who has a background with the FBI and the CIA, and who might have a better idea of what his mission is. But that brings us to the question of Secretary Napolitano. Unless she was totally incompetent, she had to have seen this memo before it was released, and to have played a role in choosing its release date just before the Tea Parties took place across the nation.

If she thinks that the proper role of Homeland Security is to protect the political butt of the President, rather than to protect the lives of American citizens, she should be dumped as fast as the Secretary of that Department, as Mr. Mackin was dumped as Undersecretary. Is there other evidence that the Homeland Security Secretary has no clue what her job entails? Evidence that she has in other ways acted to endanger Americans, rather than protect them?

Prior to becoming Secretary, Napolitano was Governor of Arizona, a key target for the invasion of illegal aliens from



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John Armor

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John_Armor@aya.yale.edu

Mexico into the United States. That state passed a series of laws to make it harder for illegals to work in that state, laws which proved very effective and caused many aliens to "self-deport." But those laws were passed over the determined opposition of Napolitano.

Just recently, Napolitano stated in public that the 9/11 attackers came across the

Canadian border. That is dead wrong. All 19 of those murderous hijackers entered the US via our own airports and under lax regulations on tourists and students.

This week, Napolitano announced that she wants revisions and relaxation of the Real ID Act passed by Congress years ago, and now going into effect. That law was occasioned by some states having incredibly lax regulations so that aliens, and terrorists, could easily get US drivers licenses. My state, North Carolina, was a particularly bad example. As I understand, almost half of the 9/11 criminals got their first licenses in North Carolina, which they could then exchange for licenses from any other state.

I was invited to speak to a national meeting of state legislators six years ago on the subject of the security of drivers licenses. I told them that a chain is no stronger than its weakest link; either the states would have to adopt proof of who you are and whether you are a US citizen as a minimum standard for licenses, or Congress would force the issue. Congress did force it, rejecting state drivers licenses as valid ID from those states which still had sloppy standards.

Is Secretary Napolitano too stupid to recognize that obvious point? Or, does she think that following the winds of politics is her higher duty?

Either way, Napolitano needs to be fired as quickly as humanly possible. The longer she stays, the more likely it is that thousands, tens of thousands, or millions of Americans (if the terrorists smuggle in a nuclear weapon made in North Korea, Iran, or Pakistan) will be killed. In such case, the murderers who push the button will not be any of those who were slandered in her biased threat memo.

• About the Author: John Armor practiced law in the Supreme Court for 33 years. He now lives on the Eastern Continental Divide in the Blue Ridge of North Carolina.
John_Armor@aya.yale.edu

• CONSERVATIVE POV •

Just when you think you've heard it all

I thought when the global warming loonies, after 553 of the world's prominent scientists agreed that their theory was absurd, renamed their cause "climate change," that we had them on the run. Not so much. By the way, what does climate change mean, anyway ... of course the climate changes. There are jokes about it. You know, if you don't like the weather right now, don't sweat it (g/w reference intended), it'll change in a few minutes. So what's the problem?



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

Enough of that foolishness; let's talk about the TEA parties. Your humble writer was involved in the one held in Franklin and I'm proud of it. What a curious reaction to the parties nationwide from the mainstream media. One would think that our esteemed Secretary of Homeland Security was putting out talking points to misguided media types.

Janeane Garofalo, idiot comedienne and recent expert

on what motivates the common man, was interviewed on MSNBC by idiot Keith Olbermann. Janeane imparted her wisdom by informing the world that every single person that attended a TEA party was motivated by their hatred of the President and that hatred came from their prejudice. The woman must be psychic as well as psycho because she knew what drove EVERYONE to the party.

This theory coincides nicely with her alternative pronouncement that anyone who attended a party was a redneck "tea bagger" which, if you don't understand the inference, it's just as well. So far, according to the idiot, I am a prejudiced redneck. I'm OK with the redneck part, but the other white supremacist issue doesn't work with me. Yes, admittedly I am white, but that was the luck of the draw and I really had no say in the matter.

Others suggest that we claim to be, or were labeled as "hardworking" which somehow has been contorted to imply that all those who didn't attend a party were not hardworking. WHAT? And we somehow fail to understand that our country was built by hardworking non-white people and where do we get off claiming to be the only ones who work hard? Good grief!

Some accuse us of being bigoted. If I can take the liberty of mixing some metaphors, I am now a prejudiced, bigoted, hardworking, redneck white person. And now for the "coup de grace," We are - Christians. Oh, no, not that. Yup, that's us.

The Sun, a UK internet news service reports, "Fatties Cause Global Warming." Here I thought it was steel mills, or cow flatulence or George Bush that caused g/w, and it turns out that it is, (drum roll, please), overweight people. "The rising number of fat people is blamed for global warming. Scientists warned that the increase in big-eaters means more food production - a major cause of CO2 gas emissions warming the planet. Overweight people are also more likely to drive, adding to environmental damage."

These people are relentless. They will stop at nothing to make a pointless point. Dr. Phil Edwards, of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said: "Moving about in a heavy body is like driving a gas guzzler." WHAT? "Each fat person is said to be responsible for emitting a tonne (they talk funny over there) more of climate-warming carbon dioxide per year than a thin one. It means an extra BILLION TONNES of CO2 a year is created, according to World Health Organization estimates of overweight people." Mercy.

"The scientists say providing extra grub for them to guzzle adds to carbon emissions that heat up the world, melting polar ice caps, raising sea levels and killing rain forests." Who would of thought? And what kind of scientific talk is grub - and guzzle? "The impact of more storms, floods and droughts could overwhelm aid organizations. " Good grief, its sounds like the story line from an Al Gore production.

•See SWANSON page 21

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at First Baptist Church

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Pastor Everett Brewer

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Tuesdays: 10am Women's Bible Study; 2nd, 4th, & 5th

Tuesdays Young Mom's Bible Study

Wed.: 5pm Dinner; 6pm AWANA, Youth Activities

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

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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

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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.

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Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175

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Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – Seekers

Wednesdays – Choir – 7

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Jack the Newt

Or what does this have to do
with worship?



Pastor Clayton Lopez
Community Bible Church

David, Jacob, my two sons, and I love to do outdoors kind of stuff. We feel we've hit the jackpot here in the mountains. We mostly like to ride our bikes, but we also like to hike, to explore, to climb trees, to play ball and sometimes it involves, water, either rain or large bodies of water, lakes or oceans.

A while ago, David and I we were over hiking on the "Yellow Mountain Trail." It was rainy and dreary — a great time to be outside.

We were sauntering along, well more like sloshing along, clambering over rocks and roots, and making noise to scare off the bears. When something bright and colorful in the gray and dreary landscape caught our attention.

Kids have great eyesight, possibly because their "ocular equipment" is still pretty new, as compared to us, the more mature.

"Dad! Look!" David said.

He pointed to a twig beside the trail and sure enough it looked like a lizard, just roving along the twig.

Well, I don't know my lizards and thought it might be "poisonous" because it did not look like an ordinary lizard. So, I hesitated to pick it up. But David was braver and fetched up the little dude just like "at. "Cooooo!"

It was orange, a deep orange with a reddish tint. It was so orange that it almost looked like a miniature alien beast, like the kind you get in kid's meals at McDonalds or Wendy's — but this one moved, "it was alive! Ahhhhh!"

Well, the little guy did not attack us with his razor like fangs or inject us with neurotoxin poison. He just curled up in David's hand and went to sleep. I guess since it was cool outside and he found the hand to be a warm cubby hole to snooze in.

"His name is Jack . . ." David said. "I'm going to call him Jack."

So what was this little gem, huh? After researching a bit I learned that our buddy was a newt.

A newt ("noot" like saying "new" and adding a "t" at the end) is a kind of reptile, like a lizard, it has four legs and is of the salamander family. This newt was a Carolina Red Spotted Newt, also known as an Eastern Newt. Its scientific designation is "*Notophthalmus viridescens viridescens*." We saw two of them. They were actually "efts." An eft is a baby newt. When these little guys are still young they are a bright orange color, but as they mature they turn a dark green with red spots

As I researched I also found that here in North Carolina we have 40 different common kinds of these salamanders, wow! Our area is sometimes known as the salamander capital of the world, wow! They have names like "greater siren" or "lesser siren" and "mudpuppy" and "dwarf waterdog." Some have legs, some don't. Some have tails, some don't. Most are really slimy. Some are pretty cute, some more dragonesque.

Well, we now have a friend on the Yellow Mountain Trail and his name is: Jack the Newt.

So what does Jack the Newt have to do with worship? Well nothing and everything.

Nothing: he's just a newt . . . he can't talk to us about worship, or write a treatise on it, but . . . everything: because Jack had an important message to us from God even though he is mute.

He reminded us that God is great and does great things.

Jack was cool, and on the Yellow Mountain Trail standing there all wet David and I were mesmerized by his color, orange, by his movement, by the intricacies of his body: legs, feet, we wanted to know more about him, how he was made, how he lived. We were in awe . . .

I said to him, "David, isn't God great."

"Yep . . . He makes cool stuff."

It seemed too simple, but we had just worshiped God.

... MEETING continued from page 1

property has not been allowed to fall into disrepair or to be used for the storage of waste, junk cars or other debris.

The sale of the property and keeping it in a sanitary state, was a major point of discussion at Monday's meeting, because some commissioners felt the purpose of the voluntary program was to clean up Macon County so repayment shouldn't be an issue. "The goal is to get rid of abandoned mobile homes and the blight they cause on the neighborhood," said Commissioner Jim Davis. "With them gone, everyone's property value will go up."

However, Commissioner Brian McClellan said he wanted some sort of time limit in the program documentation and suggested changing it from 12 months to six months in both cases.

"Otherwise I feel we are using county money to subsidize private interests and a potentially profitable venture." Commissioners agreed that it would be easier and more profitable for a property owner to sell property without an abandoned mobile home on it.

Stahl estimates permitting and tipping fees for a standard single-wide mobile home will be in the range of \$350-\$500. It's not known at this time how much contractors will charge to demolish, remove and transport the remains to the landfill, but the county is willing to credit up to \$1,000 toward the process.

Macon County will contract with private vendors for the demolition, transport and disposal of the home. For property owners who choose to use a contractor listed with the county, assistance credit may be used toward demolition permit fees, demolition and transport costs and or landfill tipping fees. For property owners who wish to provide their own demolition and transportation services with prior approval from the county, assistance credit may only be used toward the demolition permit fees and landfill permit fee.

Failure to comply with proof of payment requirements, selling before the six-month period or failing to keep the property sanitary for six months will result in the county filing of a Confession of Judgment with the court to recoup all assistance credits.

Since the county has never had such a program, commissioners want statistics backing it to be presented at the December 2009 meeting to see if it's fiscally working for the county.

The program is limited to one home per property owner per year. The program isn't for any homes brought into Macon County and abandoned.

Flood Plain Ordinance

Due to the extent of the disaster at Peek's Creek in 2004 and the significant loss of life, Macon County was the first county in Western North Carolina to get the updated Flood Plain map from FEMA.

With that now in the can, the Macon County Watershed Council and the Macon County Commission adopted amendments

to the flood plain ordinance that was formally adopted about a year ago.

For county property to be eligible for inclusion in the National Flood Insurance Program, the final version of the flood plain which goes into effect May 4, 2009, has to be accompanied by the amended ordinance.

"Basically administrative changes have been incorporated in this final version of the ordinance," said Bob Wright with the MC Watershed Council. "There are no major changes."

Changes include definitions of "High Impact" businesses that aren't allowed in the flood plain or floodway. "The types of businesses had to be listed, rather than just referring to them as 'high impact' businesses."

Since Macon County has experienced

• See MEETING page 20

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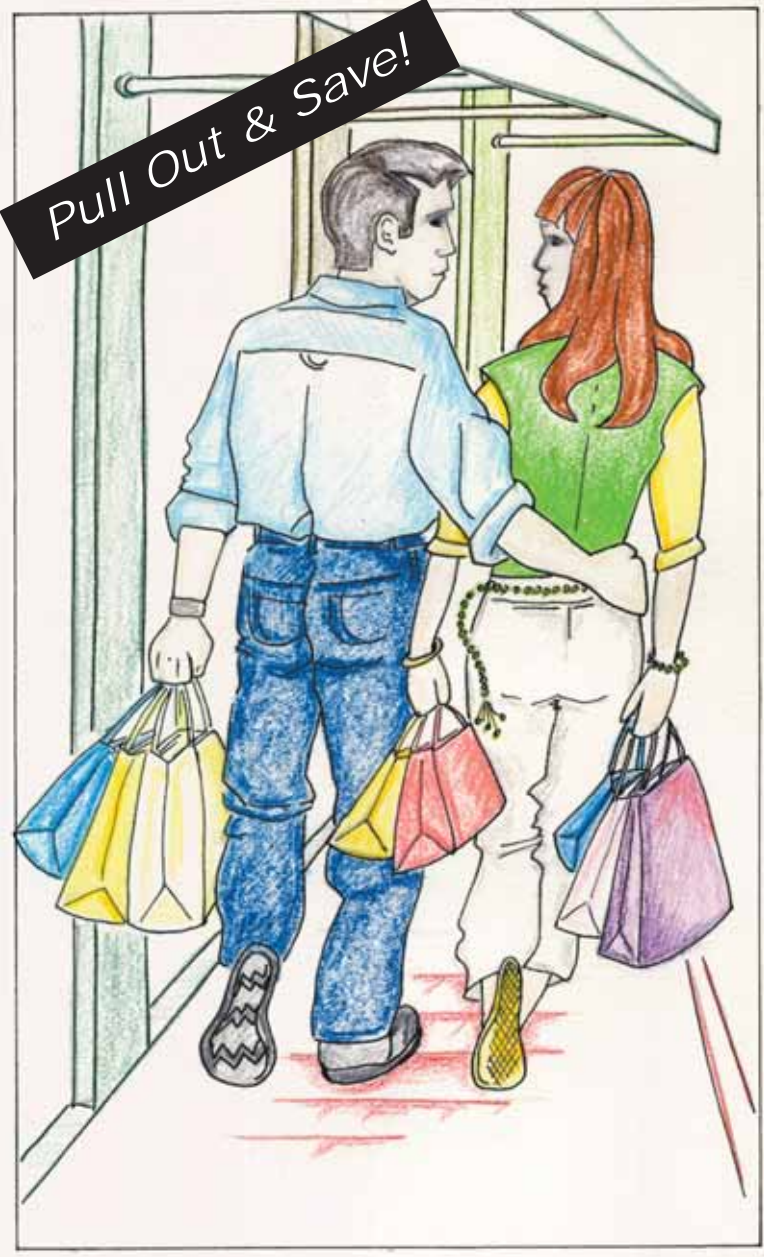


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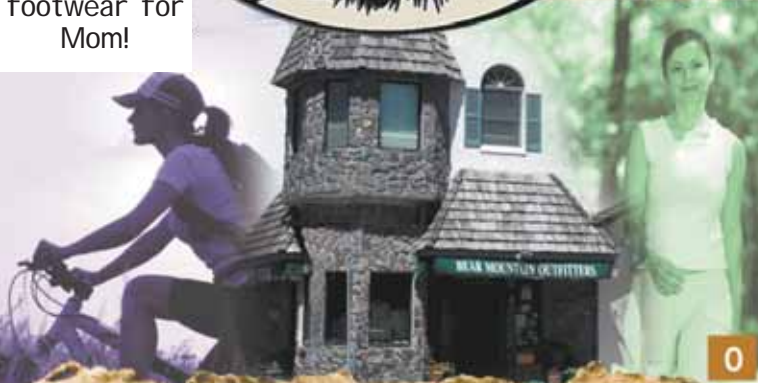
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• COACH'S CORNER •

The Jinx

OK, so I must preface this column with the admission that I myself am fairly superstitious. I had my own rituals before gameday in high school, and I will sometimes don my Saints apparel before crucial games during the NFL season. Unfortunately, my own little superstitions have no effect on the actual game, but it still doesn't stop me from feeling like I am not "doing my part" if I am not wearing my socks inside out (which I have since high school).



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

Superstitions can be a powerful thing, and they can certainly become synonymous with certain players throughout their career, and some are obviously more unusual than others. Michael Jordan famously wore his Carolina shorts under his uniform for every game, which seems reasonable enough, but some are just downright strange. For example, Nomar Garciaparra's pre at-bat ritual is one of the strangest and most unusual sights in baseball-then you add in the fact that he has to get dressed the exact same way before every game. Reliever Turk Wendell refuses to step on any painted lines, brushes his teeth in between innings and also has a habit of talking to himself in between pitches. Jason Kidd used to blow kisses at his wife before every free throw, and there have been countless stories of football players who don't change undershirts or even worse for fear of angering the football gods.

Sometimes superstitions can take on a team concept, such as the playoff beard, shaved head or as with this year's soccer team, the faux-hawk. I get the entire concept of "one person does it so we all do it," but sometimes it can just be a bit creepy. Kinda like how the Chinese gymnastics team from last year's Olympics all dressed up as a bunch of ten year old girls-that was a bit strange. I'm hoping that some NBA team will bring back the early 90s eraser top fade, which could totally stop a ceiling fan when correctly placed.

Perhaps the worst part of being superstitious is the whole "mental" jinx that can invariably occur at times. I have been victim of the mental jinx several times over the years. The most notable time was in 2004, when Duke held a 9-point lead with only a few minutes to play in the final four against UConn. Despite my attempts to keep from looking ahead to Georgia Tech, I could not do so and began thinking about the national championship, which immediately caused mass chaos. Suddenly, the Duke players started taking bad shots, the referees completely lost their mind and Emeka Okafor took over and the next thing I know Duke had lost and Uconn was winning another national title. The dreaded mental jinx has struck again, so

now I constantly find myself acting like Peter Venkman in "Ghostbusters" trying to empty my mind of all thought while watching a game. (Although I almost mistook Big Baby Davis for the stay-puff Marshmallow Man the other night).

It's simply amazing to think about the power of the human brain sometimes. It is a wonder that we

are so controlled and predisposed to do things simply by the power of impulse that hides in our subconscious. It is my hope that I can one day follow sporting events simply on the power of logic and reason...but until then, you will have to excuse me-the Pirates have lost 2 straight and I need to change my socks.

• HS SOCCER •

By Ryan Potts

The Highlands Lady Highlander varsity soccer team split a pair of non-conference games the week heading into this week's conference showdown with Murphy.

Last Wednesday, the Lady Highlanders hosted the Tuscola Lady Mountaineers in a non-conference matchup with one of the top women's soccer teams in Western North Carolina. While the Lady Highlanders hung tough for the first twenty minutes, they suffered some breakdowns that led to a 3 goal stretch midway through the first half that sent Highlands to halftime trailing 3-0. Despite trailing at the half, the Lady Highlanders came out strong in the second period, getting back a goal from freshman Stephanie Smart that came off of a terrific cross from Carmen Damien. After pulling to 3-1, the Lady Highlanders continued to pressure Tuscola, just missing on several scoring opportunities that would have put an even more serious scare into the Lady Mountaineers. Unfortunately, Tuscola proved to be too much, and added an insurance goal with only 2 minutes to play to bring the final score to 4-1.

On Monday, Highlands traveled to Bryson City to face the Swain Lady Maroon Devils in a makeup game from earlier in the season. While the weather in Bryson City was picture perfect, the heat seemed to have an effect on the Lady Highlanders as they came out sluggish early, and were forced to weather some early scoring chances from Swain. However, Highlands was able to wake up late in the second half on a pair of goals from Senior forward Carolyn Hornsby to take a 2-0 halftime lead. Highlands was able to add another goal in the second half, this time off the foot of Stephanie Smart, and the defense held Swain scoreless to give Highlands a 3-0 victory. The Lady Highlander defenders were especially strong, as Ana Damien, Marlee McCall, Shelby Johnson, Ladonna Rodriguez, Susan Johnson and Amy Fogle did a tremendous job in front of keeper Madison Taylor. Highlands will travel to Murphy today to battle the Lady Bulldogs in the conference opener.

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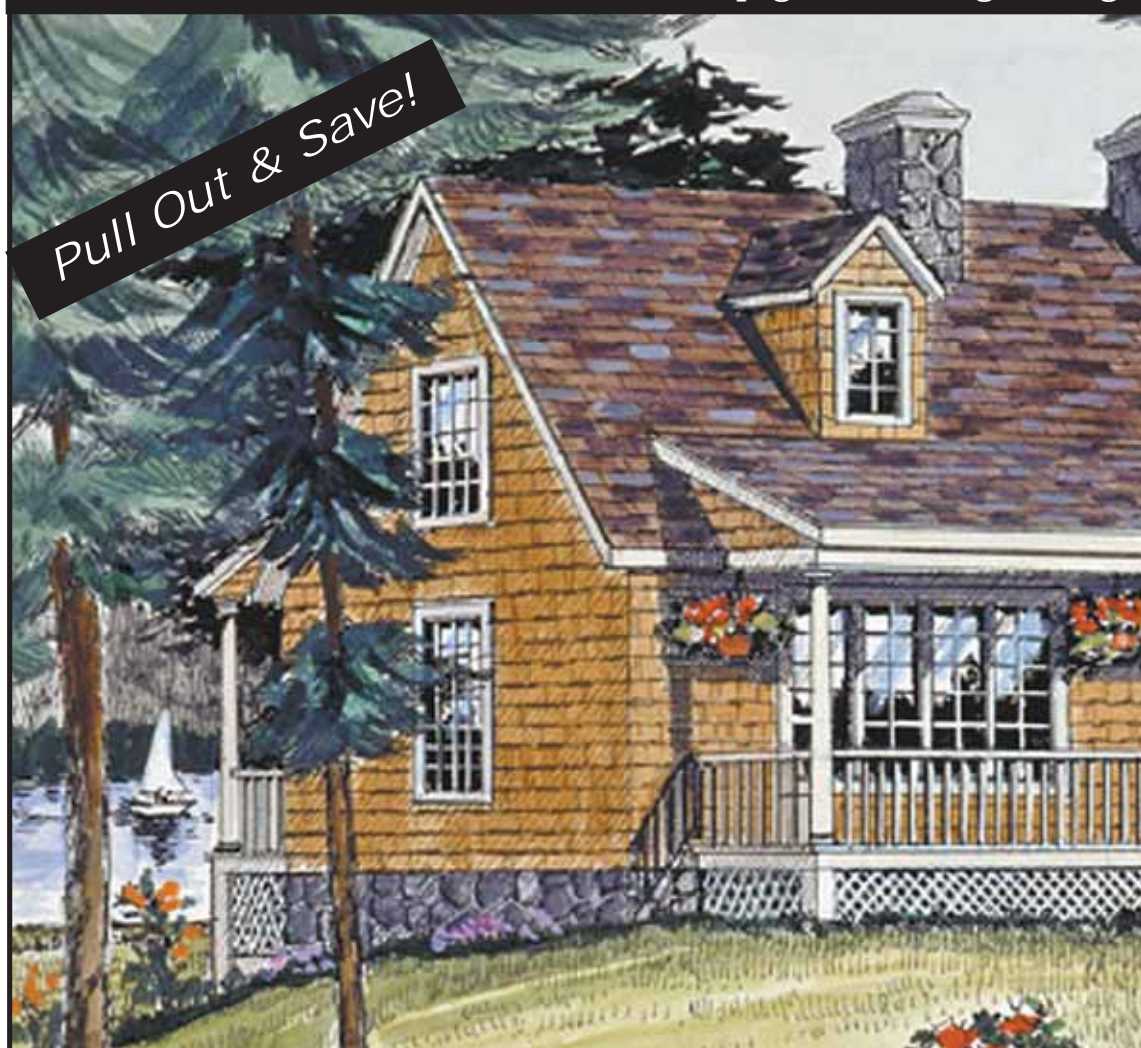
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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

... LETTERS from page 5
Shame on Haire

Dear Editor,

We recently wrote our NC Representatives regarding the proposed tax increases and 2009 budget. What we received from Representative Phillip Haire (District 119) was astonishing. The letter consisted of two sentences...the last being "Thanks for the tea and let me know when the bon voyage party will be held for your trip back to England!"

This arrogant response was quite unexpected. Do we not pay his salary? And how can he not even consider our concerns? Absolutely amazing and disrespectful. Does anyone else see anything wrong with this? If so, please consider your voting choices in 2010.

Robert & Terre' Berry
 Highlands

Center a lifesaver

Dear Editor,

This letter is about the activity of International Friendship Center, located in 348 South 5th St., Highlands, NC 28741.

The services package provided by this center is very huge: Tax ID Application & Returns, Interpreting, Translation, Housing, Employment, Immigration, Notary Public, and Legal. Moreover the International Friendship Center assists with Banking, Auto Insurance, and Drivers License.

The International Friendship Center provides informational support to every single customer, never mind the nationality, religion or need.

• See LETTERS page 20

Probably every person in this country has heard about the Scottish singer Susan Boyle by now. If you haven't seen that episode of "Britain's Got Talent" (a star-search type program), I urge you to watch it on YouTube. It is an amazing look at how we judge people by appearances. Ms Boyle is middle-aged, isn't good-looking, and had what many would consider a "frumpy" presentation. When she came out on stage the judges and audience were openly contemptuous of her — until she began to sing, that is. The multiple TV cameras allow you to watch their attitudes change, from condescending frowns to open-mouthed astonishment to wondering delight in just a couple of minutes.

What I liked best was how honest two of the judges were about their prejudice. One of the men said, "When you stood there with that cheeky grin and said 'I want to be like Elaine Page' everyone was laughing at you. No one is laughing now... amazing. I'm reeling from shock." "I'm so thrilled because I know that everyone was against you," the good-looking female judge said, looking back towards the audience.

It's easy to moralize about this event and recite the standard platitudes like "You can't judge a book by its cover" and wish that we could all be better people and not judge people this way. But unfortunately this evaluation-process is deeply wired in us.

Our minds are judgment machines. When we meet someone we have them pegged in seconds. This makes evolutionary

Vanity



Katie Brugger
 k-brugger@hotmail.com

sense; the quickest judge of the danger of a situation would be the most likely to survive: 100,000 years ago a man walks through a jungle and sees a shadow to his left. "Is this something I can eat or is it something that wants to eat me?" We are programmed to make quick assessments.

An article in the *New York Times* this week about the bias shown towards Susan Boyle ("Yes. Looks Do Matter," April 26) claimed there are reasons we size people up based on how they look. Snap judgments are a basic function of our mind: "On a very basic level, judging people by appearance means putting them quickly into impersonal categories, much like deciding whether an animal is a dog or a cat. 'Stereotypes are a necessary mechanism for making sense of information,' said David Amodio, an assistant professor of psychology at New York University... Eons ago, this capability was of life-and-death importance, and humans developed the ability to gauge other people within seconds. Susan Fiske, a professor of psychology and neuroscience at Princeton, said that traditionally, most stereotypes break down into two broad dimensions: whether a person appears to have malignant or benign intent and whether a person appears dangerous. 'In ancestral times, it was important to stay away from people who looked angry and dominant,' she said."

Humans are social animals and, like many creatures, we have a pecking order. Whenever we meet a new person we assess their position in the pecking order. Are they above us or below us? This pecking order is based on a list of criteria: looks, wealth, clothes, possessions, talent. Susan Boyle, when she first walked out on stage, was clearly low in the pecking order. Bad looks, bad clothes, obviously poor; in short, she was a loser. Worthy of contempt. Then her talent lifted her up and she rose like a rocket up the scale of value.

Interestingly, the *Times* article also reported scientific research that suggests that those with low status register differently in our brains than those with higher status. "The part of the brain that normally activates when you are thinking about people is surprisingly silent when you're looking at homeless people," Professor Fiske said.

"It's kind of a neural dehumanization. Maybe we can't bear the horrible situation they are in, or we don't want to get involved, or we're afraid we might get contaminated." But, she said, the neural response is restored when people are asked to focus on what soup the homeless person might like to eat," anything that makes one think about the person as a human being.

Recently I read Thorstein Veblen's *The Theory of the Leisure Class* for the first time. It was written a 100 years ago and the prose style makes it tough reading, but the theory is fascinating. To me the book is a psychological history of the human race. From far back in the mists of history Veblen traces the need of humans for status. When we were hunter-gatherers and lived in caves men achieved status through exploits — success in the hunt or in warfare.

As we became more civilized and industry replaced the hunt, possessions and leisure became the sought-after status symbols. Early on men showed their prowess by bringing home the biggest mastodon. Today men show their prowess by bringing home the biggest diamond for their wife. Same impulse, different manifestation.

The leisure class is the highest status group because these people don't have to work to finance their conspicuous consumption. Leisure and excessive consumption both indicate high status through the element of waste: the waste of goods and resources and the waste of time. That is, you are so wealthy you have excess to burn.

All of us look for status in many ways: clothes, cars, houses, conspicuous consumption of all kinds. How much of the disastrous state of our economy is due to this deep-seated need to prove our worth through consumption?

We even use our "philanthropic" spending to provide status — conspicuous philanthropy. Many non-profits have categories with a select few "angels" on top, or name buildings after major donors. We seem to have forgotten Jesus's instruction to do our giving anonymously: "But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." Matthew 6:1-4

I was struck when I heard this week that an anonymous donor had given \$70 million to six or seven colleges this year. The donor wishes to remain anonymous "not just to the public, as is typical, but to the institution itself. No one on campus — not the president, not the public relations staff, not the chief fund-raiser — can know where the money came from." How refreshing, and how unusual.

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

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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going Events

• Registration is now open for the 2009 summer nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are offered: "WOW! - a World of Wonder" (ages 4-6), "Amazing Animals" (ages 7-10), "NatureWorks" (ages 8-11), "Mountain Explorers" (ages 10-14), and "Junior Ecologists" (ages 11-15). Some camps are offered more than once during the summer. Sessions run from Tuesday to Friday each week. For complete schedules, costs, and other information, please call 828-526-2623 or visit www.wcu.edu/hbs.

• Friends of Panthertown work days, last Thursday of every month (time and location varies). Volunteers needed to maintain trails. For more information, contact Nina Elliott at

828-526-9938 (ext 258).

• Refuge Youth meets every Sun. night at 6:30 p.m. downstairs at Cullasaja Assembly of God. If you are in grades 6th-12th then this is the place to be! The church is located at 6201 Highlands Rd. next to Exxon. For more info call youth ministers Matt and Candace Woodroof at 828-369-7540 ext 203.

• 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.

• 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 Woodruff room 201, 10 a.m. until noon. Call Barbara Buchanan at 526-1402 or Florence Flanagan at 743-2567.

Mon. & Wed.

• Pilates Classes Level 1 of Jane Woodruff at the hospital at 4 p.m. \$10 per class. Call 526-5852.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park, 8-9 a.m. \$10 per class or \$50 a month.

Wed., & Fri.

• Open AA meeting noon at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

First Mondays

• Participate in your hospital by joining the Auxilliary of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Auxilliary meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at the hospital.

Mondays

• Closed AA meeting, 8 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

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

Tuesdays

• 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.

• Closed AA Women's meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Epis-

copal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Wednesdays

• 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.

Wednesdays & Fridays

• Open AA meeting at noon at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

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.

Thursdays

• Al-Anon meeting, noon at the Episcopal Church on Main and Fifth streets.

2nd & 4th Fridays

• Community Drum Circle at the Highlands Rec Park, from 6-7:30 p.m. All ages are encouraged to attend this free event. All experience levels welcomed. Bring your own drum or percussion instrument. Some extra drums and percussion will be supplied. For more information call 421-0551.

Fridays & Saturdays

• At Highlands Wine & Cheese, at Falls on Main, complimentary wine samplings during business hours.

Saturdays

• At Highlands Wine & Cheese, Falls on Main, Wine Flights from 4-6:30 p.m. Five wines, artisan cheeses and specialty foods. \$19 per person.

Thursday, April 30

• At Cyrano's Book Shop, author Susan Rebecca White will sign copies of Bound South from 3-5 p.m.

Friday-Sunday, May 1-3

• "Wine and Dine on the Mountain" Weekend May 1-3 with Old Edwards Inn and Wolfgang's. Call 866-526-8008.

Friday, May 1

• Mountain Findings opens for the season. Monday-Saturday, 10-5.

• High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night at the Macon County Community Building on route 441 from 7-9 p.m. Jim Roper from Cornella, GA and Jim Duncan from

Crew prepares for 'Rumors' opening May 7

Each play performed on the stage of the Performing Arts Center by the Highlands Cashiers Players is a visual connection between actor and playgoer. But the behind the scenes work are moments of magic that audiences seldom understand. A perfect play doesn't just come from the weeks of rehearsals of the dedicated actors and actresses who prepare for their moment on stage. There is costuming, set design, sound and lighting, that must be as choreographed as the players' movements onstage to transform a play into a performance.



The Highlands News: Volunteer Jim Schulte working with set designer Gary Clark constructing the two-story stage for Neil Simon's Rumors. The HCP production opens at the Performing Arts Center May 7. For ticket information, contact the box office at 526-8084.

The upcoming HCP production of Neil Simon's Rumors is putting the final touches on all of its behind the scenes elements before the curtains go up at its May 7 opening night.

Set designer Gary Clark is leading his all-volunteer team in transforming the PAC stage into an upper crust New York home of socialites Charlie and Myra Brock. Jim Schulte, Dr. Paul Black, Fritz Toussaint, Tony Long, Victoria Clark and Cathy Clark are taking hammer and nails to build the multilevel set. Robin Phillips, Clair Simpson and David Rohrer are assisting with painting.

While the construction crew is getting its paint buckets primed, mother-daughter team Joan Levinson and Barbara Werder and are adding the finishing touches to costuming. Everything must be a perfect match and a perfect fit in order for the performers to portray the social elite of 1990. Barbara and Joan have a long-time association with HCP having worked on at least eight plays over the last decade.

Lee Lyons is back on board with this production as procurer of props. Lyons has

volunteered in several other roles working with HCP including behind the scenes as a stage manager and on stage as well.

Joining the team as sound designer is Robert Drake from Atlanta. Drake first became involved with HCP during last year's musical extravaganza a Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum. Jim Gordon, no stranger to HCP, is working as Robert's right hand man.

Robert brings with him newcomer Aaron Gotlieb to work as light designer. Aaron earned a bachelor of fine arts in Design and Technical Theater at Georgia Perimeter College and Columbus State University.

Newcomer to HCP tech crew Phyllis Tietzse is working the light board. Phyllis comes with a lot of experience having set and run the light board at St Petersburg College in Florida. In Clearwater, Fla., she spent six years as lighting director for Footlight Theatre.

Former HCP performer, Linsey Wisdom, is working on stage and off for this production. On stage she plays a police officer, but her full time commitment is behind the scenes working as the stage manager. Linsey helps to coordinate the technical staff and acts as the right hand to director Donna Cochran and assistant director Peggy Fuller.

It takes the entire team to add all the finishing touches required to transform a play into a performance.

Rumors will be running May 7-10 and 14-17. For ticket information, contact the box office at 828-526-8084 or online at highlandscashiersplayers.org.

Grant deadline approaching

The Macon County Community Foundation is pleased to be able to offer grants from the Macon County Grantmaking Endowment for 2009. Proposals are sought in support of broad charitable purposes in the areas of arts and humanities, education, the environment, health, human services, public and societal benefit, and youth development. Monies are available for non-profit, tax-exempt organizations addressing these needs in Macon County. Grants typically range from \$750 to \$1,500. Total grantmaking in 2009 will not exceed \$12,000.

Please visit: www.nccommunityfoundation.org to download an application or call 1-800-201-9532 to obtain one by mail.

Grant proposals are due and must be received on or before May 15. The Grants Committee will consider eligible proposals and determine grant awards. Reporting requirements from any prior NCCF grants must be fulfilled before new applications will be accepted. Proposals may be awarded in full or in part; awarded with contingencies; or they may be declined. All grant decisions are final. The minimum grant award will be \$100. Grant recipients will be informed of the decision made by the Grants Committee by June 30, 2009.

Proposals should be mailed to: Tom Ritter, Macon County Community Foundation, P.O. Box 1396, Franklin, NC 28744

Highlands Little League Baseball Schedule

May 1	6pm	9/10Twins vs Yankees
May 2	10am	9/10Twins vs Nationals
May 8	6pm	9/10A's vs Reds
May 9	10am	7/8Twins vs Reds
	12pm	9/10A's vs Twins
	2pm	11/12 Twins vs Rangers
May 12	6pm	11/12Twins vs Red Sox
May 14	6pm	7/8Twins vs Yankees
May 15	6pm	9/10 A's vs Red Sox
	2pm	9/10 Twins vs Blue Jays
	2pm	9/10 A's vs Indians
	4pm	11/12Twins vs Rockies
May 28	6pm	7/8Twins vs Marlins
May 29	6pm	9/10 A's vs Dodgers
May 30	10am	7/8Twins vs Dodgers
	12pm	9/10Twins vs Indians
	2pm	11/12Twins vs Brewers
May 31	2pm	9/10Twins vs Red Sox
June 4	6pm	9/10A's vs Twins
June 6	10am	9/10A's vs Cardinals

All games are at the Zachary Park on Buck Creek Road and are subject to change due to weather.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Franklin will be the callers. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. Call 828-349-0905, 828-349-4187, 706-782-0943.

Saturday, May 2

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike in Panthertown to Black Mountain and Sassafras Gap to see pink shell azaleas and silver bell trees in bloom. There are three elevation changes of 300 feet each. Carl Blozan at 743-1765 for reservations.

- The Franklin Cross Country team will be hosting the Grayson Hall Memorial 5K race on Saturday at 9 a.m. at Tasse Park on the Little Tennessee Greenway in Franklin, NC. This is the 5th year for the Grayson Hall Memorial race, which raises money for a scholarship. For more information and registration forms contact Denise Davis at 828-524-6467 or denise.davis@mcsk-12.org. You may also register online at active.com. Registration is \$15 and those registering by April 24th will receive a t-shirt.

- Macon County Rabies Vaccination Clinic at Highlands Community Building from 1-2:30 p.m., with Dr. Amy Patterson and 3-4 p.m. at the Scaly Mountain Post Office.

\$5 per pet - cash Only! No checks! Please remember to keep pets in vehicles, on leashes or in carriers.

- The Wild & Woolly Wine Tasting & Author-Fiddler Festival at Tiger Mountain Vineyards in Tiger, GA from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entry donation is \$20 and includes entertainment, food and wine.

Sunday, May 3

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 4.4-mile hike on the Deep Creek and Indian Creek trails in the Smokies with an elevation change of 500 feet. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 p.m. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations.

- First Presbyterian Church will host an old-fashioned hymn-sing at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Participants can choose hymns from the 1938 Cokesbury Hymnal. Song leader is Stell Huie and Angie Jenkins will play the piano.

Thurs.-Sun., May 7-10

- Rumors can be seen at PAC. Due to language and themes, it is appropriate for mature audience only. For ticket information call the box office at 828-526-8084 or visit online at www.highlandscashiersplayers.org.

Think mountain hardy perennials!

By Emily Compost

Spring is here and it's time to think about new additions for your flower garden.

Locally-grown perennials, proven hardy in our mountains, are great selections. You can find a wide variety of mountain hardy perennials at the Mountain Garden Club Plant Sale in Highlands on May 23.

Every perennial sold at the Mountain Garden Club plant sale comes from plants that have weathered our mountain extremes. The roots of these tough plants are hardy, able to tolerate cold dry winter winds and temperatures as low as 10 below. Each spring and summer healthy flower stalks and buds emerge, bringing flowers of all shapes and colors.

If your garden has full sun to partial shade, good choices include hardy geraniums, gooseneck, and goldenrod. Yes, goldenrod!

Goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.) provides reliable, beautiful end-of-summer color, and no matter what you may have heard, goldenrod blooms do not cause hay fever. Many people assume the showy yellow blooms of goldenrod, which emerge in late summer and early fall, cause nasal allergy symptoms.

Not true. Goldenrod is a scapegoat for ragweed, which blooms at the same time.

Ragweed pollen is easily carried by the wind, and many people are allergic to it. In contrast, goldenrod pollen is sticky and only spreads by insects, not by the wind. That means you can enjoy the blazing beauty of goldenrods every year, without sneezing or battling itchy, watery eyes.



Cranesbill geranium

Gooseneck, also called loosestrife (*Lysimachia clethroides*) can stabilize a sloping bank while providing you with graceful, white draping blooms for most of the summer. Good as a cut flower, too, gooseneck rapidly reproduces itself when given room to spread.

Cranesbill geranium (*Geranium sanguineum*), makes a great perennial groundcover in full sun to partial shade. These carefree plants provide weeks of pink to lilac blooms on 9 to 12 inch stems in late spring and early summer. Unlike tender 'greenhouse

geraniums' (which are really Pelargoniums, not geraniums), Cranesbill geraniums overwinter here beautifully. Consider adding this adaptable, sturdy plant to your landscape.

In a garden area with shade or partial shade, celandine poppies and columbines are great plants to consider.

Celandine poppies (*Stylophorum diphyllum*) have yellow blooms and beautiful seed pods on 1 to 1.5 foot stems.

Columbines (*Aquilegia* spp.) come in a variety of colors and many plants have bicolor blooms. Flower stalks can be 1 to 3 feet tall. Let columbines go to seed and you'll be rewarded with seedlings to transplant elsewhere in your flower border or rock garden.

With the proper soil and a minimum of care, mountain hardy perennials will bring rewards for years to come. For good results, buy good quality plants.

The 27th Annual Mountain Garden Club Plant Sale will be May 23, 9 am to 1 pm, at the baseball park in Highlands on Highway 64 E. See you there!

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Ruby Cinemas has expanded
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Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:30), 7:10, 9:30

GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST
rated PG-13
Mon - Fri: (4:20), 7, 9:20
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:20), 7, 9:20

STATE OF PLAY rated PG-13
Mon - Fri: 7:05, 9:15
Sat & Sun: 7:05, 9:15

17 AGAIN rated PG-13
Mon - Fri: (4:10), 7, 9:10
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:10), 7, 9:10

**HANNAH MONTANA
THE MOVIE** rated G
Mon - Fri: (4:15)
Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:15)

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April 30
3-5 p.m.
Susan Rebecca White
Bound South

May 23
2 to 4 pm
Jack Riggs
The Fireman's Wife

June 9
1-3 p.m.
Matthew Eberz
Honor for Sale

June 24
1-3 p.m.
Mary Kay Andrews
The Fixer Upper

\$5 for 20 words weekly

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\$2. for each add'l. 10 words

HELP WANTED

THE TOWN OF HIGHLANDS IS SEEKING A FULL TIME SANITATION EQUIPMENT OPERATOR I - Required to obtain a Commercial Drivers License (CDL) within 90 day of employment, and must have the ability to perform strenuous physical work. For information about this position, direct inquires to Sonjia Gibson at the Highlands Town Office (828)526-2118.

HOUSEKEEPER: Happy person who loves clean homes needed in Sapphire Valley once per week May through October. 561 706-7555. 4/30

TECHNOLOGY SAVVY, CUSTOMER FRIENDLY? NEW OWNERS of the Highlands Radio Shack seeking part time employees. Call 526-3350 or stop by for application. Ask for Josh or Wendi. Email: trilliumt@gmail.com (st. 4/23)

HIRING FOR TWO NEW RESTAURANTS - Back of the house and front of the house needed. Call 526-3380 or 342-5174.

RN NEEDED FOR UPSCALE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY. 8 hours per week. Apply at Chestnut Hill, 64 Clubhouse Trail, Highlands, NC. Or email your resume to dotty.guenther@gmail.com. Drug screening and background check. EOE.

THE TOWN OF HIGHLANDS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME IT PROFESSIONAL (16-24 hrs/week). This person should have knowledge of a server/client environment and a background in web design and programming, particularly in .html and .asp. For information about this position, direct inquires to Matt Shuler at the Highlands Town Office (828) 526-2118.

MEDICAL ASSISTANT/NURSE - needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Physician office setting, full-time position available. Current certification and/or NC license and BLS required, ACLS recommended. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RECEPTIONIST - needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Physician office setting, full-time position available. Previous medical/family practice office experience required. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-

employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RNs 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 Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. PRN positions are available. Our wage scale is \$11.00 to \$14.40 per hour, and you also receive shift and weekend differentials. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Human Resources, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

LOST & FOUND

LOST - A MALE BLACK Cat, Keesa, lost in vicinity of Mt. Lori and N. Cobb. Wearing a hot pink rubber flea collar. Please call Tanya at 828-301-3690, 526-1706 or cell: 828-301-3696.

FOUND: POOL CUE. Call 404/237-4333

RESIDENTIAL FOR SALE

3-BEDROOM, 2 1/2 BATH. New paint inside and out. New carpet. Below Appraisal. \$199,000. Cashiers Area. Call 743-1107 or 371-1609. 4/30

44.76+/- ACRES \$189,000 BANK FORECLOSURE Tuckaseegee Riverfront Ridge Top Views MLS #67408 Marty Jones Realty BRIAN RENFRO, REALTOR 828-226-0118.

TRILLIUM BEST BUY BIG VIEW HOME SITE Great Building Site \$189,000 MLS #67480 Marty Jones Realty BRIAN RENFRO, REALTOR 828-226-0118

GOOD HOUSE FOR \$139,500 - 3 bed, 2 bath, high elevation, pond. Call Ann at Cabe Realty 828-526-2475.

FOR SALE BY OWNER - 535 N. 4th Street. Zoned Commercial. \$389,000. Currently rented at \$2,500 a month. Call 770-827-0450. (st. 2/19)

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

PATIO APARTMENT - Furnished, Queen Bedroom, all utilities except phone. \$650 a month. First & last month's rent for at least a 5-month lease. Call 828-526-2679.

HOUSE FOR RENT ON MIRROR LAKE - 3 bed/3 ba, with w/d, central h/a, deck. \$1,100 per month plus utilities. Security deposit required, yearly lease, no smoking. 828-526-4073.

HIGHLANDS GARAGE APARTMENT - Within town limits. Quiet, cozy, wood panelled. Living room, bedroom, bath, kitchen, balcony, newly painted and carpeted. One person. No pets. Six month minimum, furnished. \$425/mo, incl. utilities, except electric. Call 404-892-2090 or 828-526-4445. 4/30

IN-TOWN HIGHLANDS, MIRROR LAKE AREA, 2Br/2Ba House, W/D, hardwood floors, deck. No smoking, \$750/mo, available immediately. Green Mountain Realty Group 828-526-9523.

TWO-STORY APARTMENT FOR RENT - (3 minutes from Highlands/Cashiers Hospital). Recent Renovation. Fully Furnished. 2 bedrooms/2 baths. 3 extra-large closets. kitchen with dishwasher and new JennAire cook stove, dining area, living room, native stone fireplace, washer/dryer, cable and telephone connection. \$1,000 monthly. Includes water, sewer, electricity. Single family. References required. No pets. No smoking, Call Jim at 1-770-789-2489

APARTMENT FOR RENT - 1 bed, 1 bath, living area, kitchen and utility room. \$650/month. \$300 security deposit. First and last month rent. Rent includes utilities, (electric, water, heat, local phone) One year lease. Prefer non-smoker. No pets. Unfurnished. Good for 1-2 people. Call 526-9494.

DOWNTOWN FURNISHED! Spacious 1/1, full kitchen, walk in closet, balcony, small pets allowed. 526-3363 Call for appt. (st 3/5)

FOR RENT AND SALE - 2/2 condo, LR, DR, Sun room, W/D. Walk to town. Available year round. Call 828-421-2144

HOUSE FOR RENT, YEAR-ROUND, walk to town. 3/3, oil heat, hardwood floors, small pets ok. \$1,275 includes electric. 526-5558.

DOWNTOWN APARTMENT RENTAL - One bedroom (Queen), one bath, vaulted ceiling in great room, heat and air with gas fireplace. Fully furnished with W/D, cozy

and comfortable. Reduced to \$650 a month plus utilities. Call 526-4983 or 421-3614.

1 BED, 1 BATH and small room with bunk beds on Lake Sequoyah. Furnished, two boats. \$800 a month including utilities except phone. No pets, no smoking. Call Tony at 828-332-7830.

SAPPHIRE NC - 2 Story 3Bed/3 Bath, Yr round views, 2 decks, remodeled, Furnished, 2 car garage. Available yearly or seasonal. 561-626-9556

FURNISHED 3BD2BATH HOUSE IN MIRROR LAKE area available for 6-12 month lease \$1200+ utilities. Call 770-977-5692.

3BR, 2BA COTTAGE NEAR MIRROR LAKE - In town. \$1250 per month. Very clean. 770-977-5692.

ON MIRROR LAKE - Charming 3 bed, 2 bath. Huge sunroom, stone fireplace, 3 decks, canoe, furnished. Available Nov-May. \$1,500 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.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

RENTAL SPACE IN WRIGHT SQUARE - Half a building or two floors of one building. Call Harold Brammer. 828-526-5673. 4/16

2,300+/- SQ. FT. OF OFFICE/RETAIL AVAILABLE for lease or rent to own. Excellent visibility! Location is 2271 Dillard Road. Asking \$1,250 per month. 526-8953.

VACATION RENTAL

RESTORED FARMHOUSE ON SHORTOFF ROAD. - 2 bedrooms, 2 baths in a country setting. Well furnished with a large screened porch. See details and pictures at www.homeaway.com #23644 \$800 per week. (912) 354-6917.

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, No min. Call 828-342-2302.

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email: allandearth@msn.com

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ITEMS FOR SALE

6X12 ENCLOSED TRAILER - Haulmark Transport DLX. White, 3 doors, transport package, never on highway, like new. \$2000. 828-526-0974. 5/21.

100+ YR OLD CHERRY DINING TABLE — will seat up to 10 people w/drop-leaves, rope-carved legs. \$1,200 or best offer. Will deliver for small fee. Call 828-787-1515.

ANTIQUA 8 AIR CYLINDER MUSIC BOX — ca 1880s mahogany & rosewood marquetry - good condition - PLAYS. Serious buyers/collectors only call 828-787-1515

ORVIS FLYFISHING COMBO - Battenkill bbs III 5/7 reel and Clearwater mid 5 wt 7'9" rod. One year old but NEVER used. Orvis Padded reel case and rod tube/bag included. \$200. 828-399-9427.

BRAND-NEW, NEVER WORN, WEDDING DRESS AND VEIL. Beautiful; ivory with beading at waist and scoop neck. Size 6. Price tags: dress \$640 and veil \$265. Make offer. Please call 828-526-5733 or 601-316 3147.

NORDICTRACK SUMMIT 4500 TREADMILL. Excellent condition. Has incline and preset workouts. \$550. Instruction Manual Included. 526-9107.

16" FISHING BOAT NEW with Trolling motor, Charger, New Bat.)Untippable , \$1000 OBO Call 828-200-0701

BOAT, ENGINE, TRAILER - Great for fishing. Needs some work. \$600. Call 828-200-0701

WOODBURNING FIREPLACE INSERT - Strong and sturdy, 30 inches wide, 29 inches deep and 67 inches high. \$175. Call 526-5749.

HONEY FOR SALE - Blue Valley honey, perfect amber color, 3/4 lb. bears, \$5 each. work in town. Call Bruce at 526-9021.

GE PROFILE WHITE COUNTERTOP GAS RANGE WITH DOWNDRAFT. Like new. \$185 Call 787-2232.

KOLCRAFT JEEP WAGONEER TANDEM DOUBLE STROLLER. Used rarely. Basically brand new. \$100 or OBO. Call 526-2536.

125-GALLON ALL-GLASS AQUARIUM - over 6 feet in length, was a salt-water shark-only tank. Comes with Ehiem Pro series-2 external canister filter, and optional mahogany base. Will settle for \$500; base, extras and help moving it are optional but free. Call cell 828-342-2809

DRY, HARDWOOD, FIREWOOD - Priced to Sell! Call 828-526-4946 or 828-200-0268.

SMALL EMERALD AND GOLD RING. Originally \$300 Asking \$175. 828-631-2675 after 5 p.m.

BABY LOCK SERGER MACHINE with extra spools of thread. \$200. 828-631-2675 after 5 p.m. Sylva area.

3-PIECE BEDROOM SET - Oak veneer. one dresser, one desk, one chest. \$300. Call 526-5772.

STONE AVAILABLE - Assorted. 14 pallets. \$200 per pallet. Call 526-9532

MARTIN-C-1740 UNVENTED GAS HEATER - with oxygen depleting sensing system. BTU 40,000. H. 14 24 3/4 W. 25" D. 13". Fan blower-model B35. \$125. Call 526-5640.

ANTIQUA WOODEN ROCKING CHAIR FROM LATE 1800'S. Fully refinished. \$100. Call 369-5863.

AVON CAPE COD RED GLASS - 8 piece place setting. 64 pieces. \$385. Also, accessory pieces available. Call 828-524-3614.

DESK (LARGE) WITH MATCHING CREDENZA, oak, leather chair. \$850. Call 743-6869.

GOLF CLUBS CLASSIC - SET OF MacGregor Tourney 9 irons (2-9 P.W.) 1980. Persimmon Drivers, new. \$50. Used \$25. Also miscellaneous items cheap. Call 706-746-3046. (Sky Valley).

4 SOLID OAK, LADDERBACK dining room chairs with woven seats. \$400 for set. Call 526-3048.

5-PC BEDROOM SET C.1920 Bed/Chest of Drawers/Vanity-stlye Dresser/Stool/Mirror. Rosewood inlay. Original brass hardware. Good condition. \$995. 828-200-1160 or highlandnative@yahoo.com

CRAFTSMAN 10" RADIAL ARM SAW WITH STAND. Old but used very little. Excellent working condition. \$150. 828/787-2177.

COLONIAL GLASS - set of 12 Sherbet Goblets, and dessert plates. \$35. Call 526-4063.

WATER PURIFYING CHLORINATOR PUMP with large heavy duty plastic holding tank. Was \$75. Now \$50. Call Randy at 828-488-2193.

TWO ELECTRIC WATER COOLERS for sale. Approximately 38" tall x 12" square. Put bottled water on top. \$50 each. OBO. Call 526-3262

FREE BRICK FRONT FOR BUILT-IN FIRE-PLACE. W-68", H-52" Call: 828-349-3320

LENOX SPICE JARS, full set mint condition, original

price \$45 each. Also jewelry call 369-0498. 7-9 p.m.

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.

MISC. ITEMS - Various proof coin sets, old 78 LP, Old Walt Disney movies (never opened); Girls' bicycle; Collectible Basketball Cards (never opened). Call 526-9123.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

1989 MERCEDES 560-SL - 2-door, hardtop convertible. excellent condition. Only 70,000 miles. Always garaged. Black/gray leather. \$15,000. (770) 827-0450, 4/30

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DEPENDABLE LOVING PET SITTER - for all types of pets! Houseitting and landscaping services also available. Call 443-315-9547.

RON'S HYDRO-SEEDING - Small Job Specialist. Call 828-524-3976. 4/23

MILT'S LAWN SERVICE - lawn mowing & weed eating, yard cleaning & light hauling. Call Milton at 828-421-7919 or Bill at 828-524-8659. 5/21

24-HOUR CARE FOR YOUR LOVED ONE - Companionship, showers, cooking, doctor appts. and shopping. Will travel to accomodate. Call Mrs. Myers. 828-349-3479 or 828-342-1603. 4/30

HANDYMAN SPECIAL - Repairs and Remodeling, Electrical and Plumbing, Carpentry and more. Low prices. For free estimate call 828-342-7864.

RELIABLE CHILD CARE IN MY HOME - Minutes from Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Daily/Weekly. 12 years experience, referemces and Early Childhood credentials. \$5 per hour for first child, \$10 a day for second sibling. Call 743-2672.

LANDSCAPE CLEANUP - leaves, gutters and more. Call Juan at 200-9249 or 526-8525.

FIREWOOD "Nature Dried" Call 526-2251.

HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID TREATMENT & FERTILIZATION - Great Results by J&J Lawn and Landscaping services. NC Licensed Applicator, Highlands, NC 828-526-2251.

J&J LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICES -

total lawn care and landscaping company. 20 years serving Highlands area. 828-526-2251.

... MIRROR LAKE continued from page 1

hand and have any additional funding committed.

McGill and Associates, the town's consulting engineer, worked diligently with Town Engineer Lamar Nix to complete the design and obtain permits in less than two months to meet the grant application deadline.

The Town Board approved the design contract at its Feb. 4 meeting for both the Mirror Lake and Lake Sequoyah Sewer Projects. The Mirror Lake Sewer Project will be bid within 30 days with work starting in late August or early September. The construction time frame is nine months.

Fatland said that another high priority project, Lake Sequoyah Sewer, will be submitted by the June 3 deadline for the second round of ARRA funds.

The Mirror Lake Sewer Project will extend sewer service to 140 residences on Mirror Lake Road, Hicks Road, Billy Cabin, East Wingina, Wingina, Perquin, Wyanoak, Hickory Hill, Chowan and Nesti Place. The project includes 10,150 lineal feet of 8-inch ductile iron gravity lines along with a sewage pump station.

According to Nix, the policy that was adopted for Harris Lake Sewer, will be implemented for the Mirror Lake Sewer. Under the Harris Lake Sewer Policy, a homeowner can pay the connection fee of \$2,500 and

• See MIRROR LAKE page 22

\$17 weekly

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Visit www.details-clean.com or call (828) 342-8853.

... LETTERS continued from page 14

I got the information about the existence of the International Friendship Center from my friends. My first thoughts were "what if I am not enough competitive to come to this center?", "will the staff of the center provide the assistance to an international student from Europe?", "Should I go?"

When I went, was met by two very professional and intelligent ladies: Jill Montana and Faviola Olvera. First, I was welcomed

warm and friendly. Second, both ladies gave me as much time as I needed in order to explain my case. Third, I have got an informational support, handouts, and other necessary data.

Being in a foreign country, not knowing anything it is very easy to make a lot of mistakes. That is why the activity of the International Friendship Center in Highlands it is very and very helpful and important.

There is confusion that the Friendship Center provides assistance to Latinos. From this point, I am writing this letter to encourage everybody of all nationalities to come and get assistance.

I do strongly believe that the International Friendship Center is a huge help for every single customer who needs guidance and other directions. I would like to say thank you to the center representative for their professional assistance, generous help, and encouragement.

Olga Catinsus
Highlands

... PAY continued from page 6

of personnel was also frozen if the position was funded through state dollars.

"We were able to complete most of the outstanding POs, but several were cancelled due to the inability for us or the vendors to meet the April 16 delivery deadline," said Brigman. "So, on April 13 we shut down all new POs and access to state funds as directed."

At Monday's meeting Finance Director Betty Waldroop showed the implications of the freeze and returning approximately \$408,655.90 in total dollars to the state.

Brigman said that's a lot of money to send back to the state, but luckily Macon County spent almost all of the original allocations prior to the freeze.

Henning and the board commended Brigman "for doing the right thing."

... MEETING continued from page 9

major flood events in 1791, 1845, 1876, 1916, 1940, 1949, and 2004, it's important to do what's necessary to be included in the flood insurance program, said Wright.

"No other program or homeowner policy provides insurance covering this well-known hazard," he said. "Each of the major floods experienced by Macon County have caused extensive loss of property and in 2004 at Peeks Creek a significant loss of life was seen."

The MC Watershed Council, the Macon County Emergency Services Department and the Macon County Commission all agree that the flood ordinance protects citizens by requiring safer development in the small percentage of Macon County that contains flood prone areas. Between 2%-3% of Macon County land is in the flood plain.

The only commissioner to vote "nay" to the amendments was Commissioner Bob Simpson. He has voted against the ordinance from the start on the grounds that the county has no mechanism in place to compensate property owners for the land they "give up" due to the flood ordinance being on the books. "We have no compensation in place

when we're basically not letting citizens do what they want with their property," he said.

Representatives from the county planning department said they want to allow people to develop, but if they want to do it in the floodplain and specifically in the floodway, they must comply with certain safeguards.

The family developing the property on the Highlands Road alongside the Cullasaja River has been told "no" several times by the commission when they asked for variances concerning development in the floodplain. However, the planning department worked with them and since they agreed to build their home 12 feet high without impeding the potential flow of the river should get that point, he is allowed to build 25 feet from the river.

Furthermore, Simpson said the flood insurance program only pays out \$150,000 and for some structures in the floodplain, that's not enough compensation.

However, since damage from most storms which bring flooding, is usually covered by Hazard Insurance, the flood insurance serves as additional insurance.

**Manley's
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• POLICE & FIRE •

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

April 15

- Officers responded to a call of missing outdoor items at a home on Big Bearpen Lane. A bench and concrete bear were taken.

April 20

- At 4:27 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Bowery Road and found the rear door open. Inside it appeared someone had been living there, but the owner couldn't be reached. Spent ammunition casings were found on the kitchen and dining room floor and a marijuana pipe was found on the kitchen counter.

April 21

- At 1:30 p.m., officers issued an ordinance violation concerning an abandoned car on Webbmont Road.

April 22

- At 8:25 a.m., officers took a report of injury to property for the front grill of a truck that was damaged while parked at the hardware store.
- At 8:20 p.m., officers were called concerning an assault on a female during a domestic dispute at a residence on Pine Circle. Warrants were issued.

April 24

- Officers were called to Franklin Road where a man was attempting to set up a tent. He was told tents weren't allowed within the town limits.
- Officers responded to an animal complaint at a residence on Hickory Road concerning the incessant barking of a dog on Wyanoak Road.

April 26

- At 11 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.
- At 9:07 p.m., officers conducted a welfare check at a residence on South Drive. All was OK.

April 27

- At 7:21 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle collision on U.S. 64 east where an impaired driver crossed the center line and collided with an oncoming car occupied by three people. All three were injured and transported to the hospital. The impaired driver voluntarily submitted to a blood test. The case is still under investigation.
- During the week the officers issued 20 citations and responded to 2 alarms.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of April 20:

April 22

- The dept. responded to a brush fire on Harbison Orchard Road. It was quickly extinguished.
- The dept. responded to two-vehicle accident on U.S. 64 east. Three people were injured and transported to the hospital.

April 24

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Main Street. The victim was transported to the hospital.

April 26

- The dept. responded to a possible structure fire on Stacey Russell Road when an outside lamp caught a bathroom vent on fire which damaged the edge of the roof. Damages are estimated at \$5,000.
- The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Lake Sequoyah Drive. No one was home.
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Wilson Mack Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

... SWANSON from page 7

Evil Christians. Acting like agents of the devil. Well now, if that wouldn't twist your britches. Man, this sounds more and more like a Napolitano hit list.

So, to sum up the situation, the enlightened, elitist, tolerant left-immersed media would have us unwashed, inbred, knuckle-dragging Neanderthals go back into our caves and shut-up. I just remembered, the idiot Garofalo stated as fact that none of us, NO ONE knows what the Boston Tea Party was about and the parties had nothing to do with taxes. All about hatred. Well I've got news for you'all.

The Great Unifier is doing a poor job of bringing us together. If we're choosing up sides, count me in with the prejudice-free, hardworking, God-fearing people standing up for their God, the Constitution and the freedom it guarantees, low taxes and fiscal responsibility. The liberals can have what's left.

• FUN & GAMES •

Hex-a-Ku[©] 2009

by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook

OBJECT:

A mystery word or phrase using all different letters is designated by circled squares (other short words will appear when solving, for which a list of meanings is provided). Every puzzle has a different mystery word or phrase (no spaces). Assign different letters to each square of each column and row. In addition, 3x2 cells in the puzzle layout have the same different letters. (This is similar to Sudoku but uses letters instead of numbers.)

How to Solve:

Determine the different letters among those given. Write in the mystery word using the clue and these letters. 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 blank squares according to the rules noted above. Focus your attention where the least number of letters are needed to complete a row, column or cell.

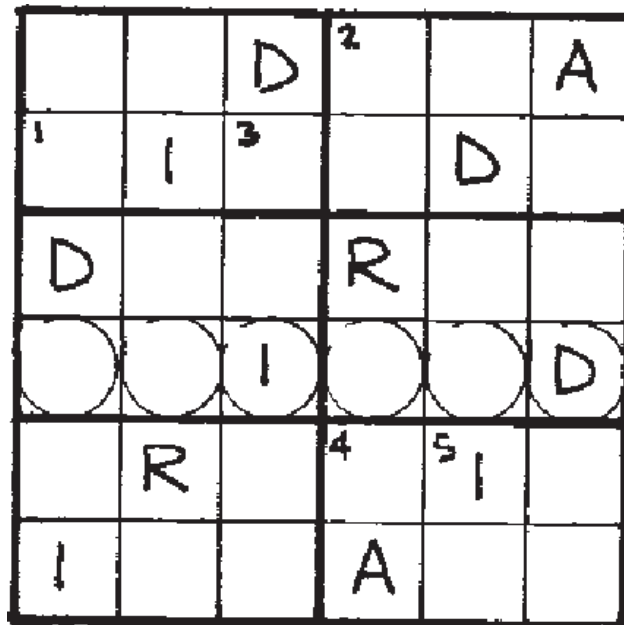
Mystery Word:
Lifted

Across

1. Atmosphere (3)
2. George Gershwin's brother (3)
3. Rainbow's 1st color (3)
4. Expire (3)

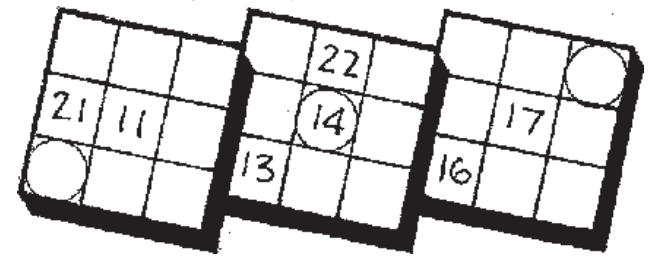
Down

5. Exist (2)



PseudoCube[©]

by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook



#DN2A Level of Difficulty - Hard

THE SETUP:

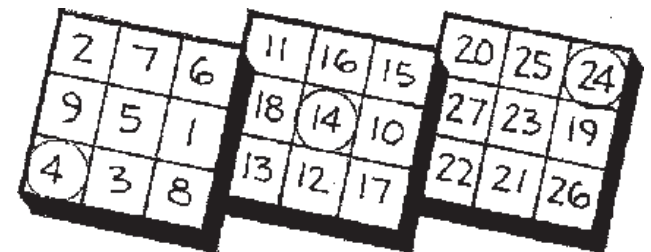
The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern: For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running through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

THE CHALLENGE:

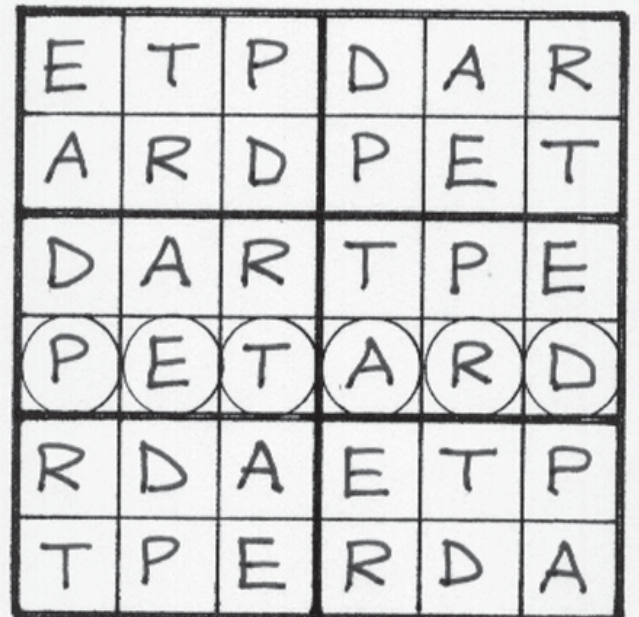
Start with the three center numbers for each layer and the other numbers given. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other numbers belong. Good Luck!

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com.

Solution to #BN2A in April 23 issue

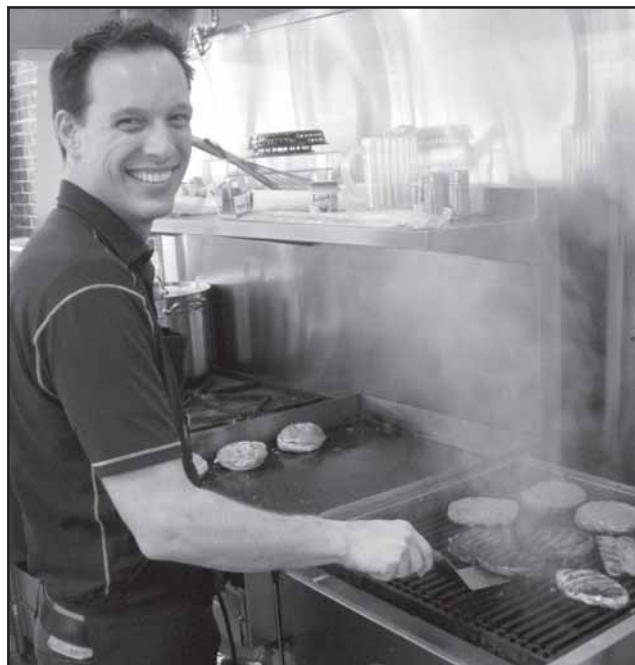


Solution to April 23 Hex-a-Ku



• BIZ NEWS •

Burgers are up at Mountain Fresh



JT at Mountain Fresh Grocery & Wine Market is ready to take your order for a grilled Angus burger, chicken breast or an all-beef hotdog served up with hand-cut Idaho potato fries. You can eat in, or take out.

Russell Harris's last day is April 30

Russell M. Harris, CFRE, FAHP, executive director of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation for the past two and a half years, announced this week he will leave his post at the end of April.

While he said he has enjoyed his tenure with the Foundation, Harris said Monday he believes his background and particular style of fundraising are really better suited to a different opportunity.

"I love the hospital and I've enjoyed working with the many other professionals here, but I don't feel that I've been able to be as effective as I would like during my time with the Foundation," he said. "Most of my experience in non-profit philanthropy has been in building business, corporate, and governmental relationships. The Foundation needs someone whose gifts lie more in individual, peer to peer relationships."

Earle Mauldin, chairman of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation Board, praised Harris's devotion to the hospital and the Foundation during what, at times, was a difficult period in the hospital's

history.

"It's always hard to raise money, even in the best of times. But when there is controversy, as there has been in the past, and now given the current economic situation, it's doubly difficult. Despite everything, Russell has remained dedicated to the hospital, and he gave the job his best effort," he said.

Mauldin said the Foundation's board will begin a search for a replacement immediately. He said the Foundation's offices will continue to operate as usual during the interim.

"I will certainly miss working with the great physicians, the hospital staff, and the many, many wonderful people I've met through the Foundation," Harris concluded. "But I feel that this is the right decision. I wish the hospital the very best and I hope those who have so faithfully supported the hospital through the Foundation for so many years will continue to do so in the future. That's crucial if these communities want to continue to have quality healthcare close by."

... FORUM continued from page 2

Evidently, George Zinkhan, Marie's husband, teaches in Amsterdam for six-weeks each summer and that's where he was when Megan was with Marie.

As Megan watched the story unfold on television, she would text me and say, "I feel like I met George, or something, his face is familiar, but I'm sure he wasn't there."

I suggested she was remembering photos of him displayed about Marie's home because after Noises Off Marie went to Eu-

rope to spend time with George.

The next text was "Well, I definitely rode in the get-away car," referring to the red Jeep Cherokee.

Life is full of lessons and even this tragedy has one.

Since life gets in the way, its critical to learn to recognize the encounters and relationships that will leave a mark on your heart before they end. In this way, no matter what happens, the moments can be remembered fondly and cherished forever.



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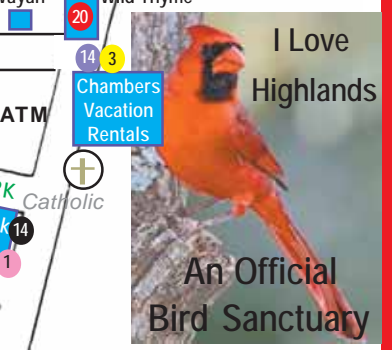
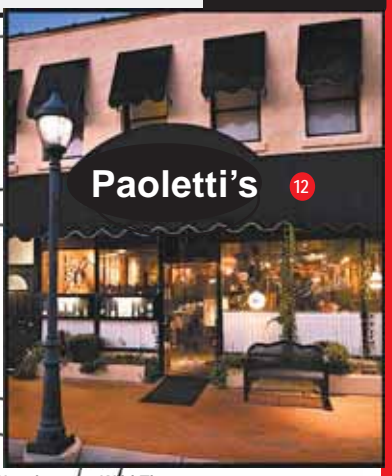


Cashiers Hwy. 64e
10 Miles

- | DINING | LODGING | SHOPPING | SHOPPING |
|--------|---------|----------|---------------------|
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 22 |
| 2 | 2 | 2 | 23 |
| 3 | 3 | 3 | 24 |
| 4 | 4 | 4 | 25 |
| 5 | 5 | 5 | 26 |
| 6 | 6 | 6 | 27 |
| 7 | 7 | 7 | 28 |
| 8 | 8 | 8 | 29 |
| 9 | 9 | 9 | |
| 10 | 10 | 10 | MARKETS |
| 11 | 11 | 11 | 1 Bryson's |
| 12 | 12 | 12 | 2 Dusty's |
| 13 | 13 | 13 | 3 Mtn. Fresh |
| 14 | 14 | 14 | 4 Whole Health |
| 15 | | 15 | BEAUTY |
| 16 | | 16 | 1 All Seasons |
| 17 | | 17 | 2 Creative Concepts |
| 18 | | 18 | 3 Images Unlimited |
| 19 | | 19 | 4 Taylor Barnes |
| 20 | | 20 | 5 The Salon |
| 21 | | 21 | 6 |
| 22 | | | |

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A detailed street map of Highlands, North Carolina. The map is overlaid with numerous numbered markers (1-29) corresponding to the legend. It includes photos of several businesses: Madison's restaurant, Log Cabin restaurant, Wolfgang's restaurant, and Scudder's Galleries. The map shows a grid of streets including Main St., Church St., Spring St., and others. Landmarks like the Community Center, Rec. Park, and various schools are also marked. The map is titled '2009 Copyrighted Map' at the bottom.



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