

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 5, Number 16

PDF Version – www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, April 19, 2007

On-going

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

• Live music at Fressers in Helen's Barn with Cy Timmons 6 p.m. until.

• Live music at Cyprus Restaurant every Friday at 9:30 p.m.

Every Tuesday

• Women's Bible Study, Beth Moore's study of Daniel at Community Bible Church Fellowship Hall. Call the church at 526-4685 to order your book.

April 19

• The Rotary Club of Highlands is planning its Bingo debut for Thursday, 5:30-9 p.m. at the Highlands Community Center (formerly Highlands Conference Center).

Friday, April 20

• Senior Luncheon at the Rec Park at noon. It's free.

Saturday, April 21

• Car Wash by the Boy Scouts at First Citizen's Bank Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

• At Cyrano's Book Shop on Main Street, a book signing with Warren Jacobs & Karen Shragg from 1-2:30 p.m. and Thomas Rain Crowe's "Zorro's Field – My Life in the Appalachian Woods" from 2:30-4.

• Benefit for Milton & Pat Green at the Highlands Rec Park 5-9 p.m. BBQ & hot dogs, raffle, silent auction & cake auction. Music by His Destiny, The White Sisters, Upward Bound-The Bowman Family, Oliver Rice & the Blue Ridge Mountain Band.

• Earth Day litter sweep begins at 9 a.m. Meet at Highlands Rec Park for an assignment. Bryson's Foods will provide sandwiches.

• Earth Day Fair on the green in Cashiers. Rain or shine. 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. Rain or Shine. Lots of fun events and booths.

• Highlands-Cashiers Hospital FREE Health Screenings. re-registration is required for all screenings. People can sign up by calling the hospital at 526-1434.

Sunday, April 22

• The Reverend Paul F. Blankinship, assistant, All Saints Anglican Church, in Asheville, will preach 11 a.m. at the Highlands Community Center on U.S. 64 east at Christ Anglican Church.

• The Scaly Mountain Church of God will have a special minister to speak on Sunday at 10:45 a.m. The minister is Rev. Thurmond Jenkins, Western N.C. State Evangelism Director from Charlotte, N.C. The congregation and pastor, Al Sizemore invite everyone to attend. The church is located at 290 Buck Knob Road.

Tuesday, April 24

• Highlands Visitor Center is hosting an Open House, from 4-6 pm. There will be complimentary hotdogs, chips, and soda. For more information call 526-2112.

Thursday, April 26

• Swanson Vineyards Wine dinner at OEI's The Farm. Each dinner is \$169 per person, inclusive of tax and gratuity. Reception begins at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. Call 828-787-2604 for reservations.

ETJ areas challenged again

Potential litigation concerning ETJ still hangs over the Town Board but this time it's about the Horse Cove and Clear Creek areas.

At the April 18 Town Board meeting, commissioners and Town Attorney Bill Coward went

into closed session to discuss the ramifications of a letter presented to the board by Planning Board member and Horse Cove resident Mitch Gurganus.

In the letter, Gurganus suggests the town is in violation of Article 19 of the N.C. General

Statute and in violation of its own Land Use Plan.

"Article 19 sets out the legal requirements by which a city such as Highlands may exercise extraterritorial jurisdiction stating an ordinance specifying an area to

• See ETJ page 9

Board OKs home business ordinance

The Home Occupation ordinance has been set for a public hearing, but not all commissioners agree with its scope.

Initially, the Planning Board revised the ordinance to address home-based businesses and home occupations in the R1-ETJ areas, but as it developed board members realized there were issues in R1 areas within the town limits, too.

"They realized that the situation in town is similar and everyone was basically turning a blind-eye and permitting the businesses to exist," said Interim Town Planner Richard Betz at the April 18 Town Board meeting. "It is their desire to treat everyone the same." Consequently, the proposed ordinance is for R1 districts in and out of town.

As such, the proposed ordinance would allow home occupations in the R1 districts in town and in the ETJ as well as in the R2, R3, B2, B3, B4 and R4 districts.

"I haven't heard a good enough argument why we should

• See HOME page 9

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
61-40°F	63-42°F	65-45°F



Traffic on U.S. 64 at the head of Cullasaja Drive was snarled when a tree suddenly fell across utility wired mid-day Monday.
Photo by Jim Lewicki

Windstorm knocks out Highlands

Weather reports warned of a major change heading Highlands' way by Sunday night, April 15, but no one was prepared for the windstorm that relentlessly buffeted the plateau Sunday through Tuesday.

About noon Sunday, the fog rolled in as temperatures began to drop. Soon the wind picked up, blew out the fog and left in its place winter-like weather complete with snow.

The wind gusted 50-70 mph shaking winter debris from every tree and shrub. For many on the plateau, power went out about 9 p.m. Sunday night and wasn't re-

stored until late Monday afternoon or early evening.

Early reports from Duke Power, the source that feeds much of the Highlands Township's electricity, warned power wouldn't be re-

stored until 8 p.m. or midnight on Monday. Luckily, that wasn't the case for all, but even by Tuesday evening outlying areas – particularly those fed by Haywood Elec-

• See WINDSTORM page 15

Apartments may be way to meet housing needs

Housing questionnaires distributed by the Affordable Housing Committee to the police department, the hospital and the school verify what most already know – Highlands Township lacks

decent "working wage" housing.

What's new? At its April 13 meeting, the Affordable Housing Committee decided to move ahead with its plan to provide

• See APARTMENTS page 10

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION

• FORUM •

The week from my perspective

This week has been important for the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Highlands. First, we had a morning retreat at the Mountain Retreat with Robert E. Smith as our facilitator discussing the future of the governance of our town in all aspects.

Currently, the Town has a Mayor-Council type government which is typical for most small towns. The larger the town the more there is a movement to a Manager-Council governance where the town manager has more authority than the administrator system which we now have.

In our system the Board of Commissioners must approve all hiring and firing although we usually accept the recommendations of our administrator. The duties of the Mayor remain the same in both systems of governance. The Council sets most of the policies, approves ordinances and oversees the administrator or manager in both systems. At the present time we have somewhat of a hybrid system somewhere between these two types of governance.

A good discussion between our facilitator and the Board developed in this retreat regarding all levels of governance of boards in general and Town boards in particular. The committee of the board assigned to this task will be going to all department heads and the town administrator for input, and we will review our consultants report from last year on all aspects of town employment and evaluation of positions. In this way we hope to streamline the governance process of our Town and make the system which we now have even better and more efficient.

After these interviews, study and discussions, we will make the necessary changes to further enhance and streamline our service to the community. We will not know what changes we will make until we have gone through the entire process and come to a consensus.

This week we also began our budget process when the Finance Committee met to begin discussing what we need to put into the budget for the coming fiscal year which begins in July. We will also be working on determining the tax rates for the Town of Highlands. This is a very involved process which will take us a couple months to work through. During the process we will try to meet with the Macon County Commissioners to work out what funds will come from the county regarding such



Mayor Don Mullen

things as sewage, recreation and landfill funding. The change in the way we handle solid waste in our land-fill will change the first of next year and this could potentially cost the town up to \$400,000. We are looking to the county for help with this. We will also continue to look for funding for removal of the silt from our water supply source, the Big Creek arm of Lake Sequoyah, along with paving some of our gravel roads.

I would like to remind everyone that the governor has declared April 14 through 28 as Spring 2007 Litter Sweep time. I encourage our citizens to get involved in keeping our pristine Highlands plateau clean, particularly along our streets and byways. This Saturday morning at nine o'clock folks can pick up the necessary bags and equipment to help with this at the Recreation Park. Supplies are also available at the NC Department of Transportation maintenance office. Notification of DOT of the placement of full bags will get them picked up. Let us all take pride in our community and volunteer to pick up the litter in our area.

• See MULLEN page 17

County's septic permitting process on the upswing

By Susanna Hearn
Reporter

The Environmental Health Liaison Committee delivered some good news for those who are anxious about the septic permit backlog that has been plaguing Macon County since last year.

Septic permits are caught up to February with only 50 applications left from that month. According to Barry Patterson, environmental health specialist with the health department, if these can be completed, the department will be on track to meet its goals.

A big jump in fast track applications prompted discussion of the possibility that fast track applications may be illegal if they are receiving preference twice over regular applications. According to some committee members this "would be a tragedy." The committee won't know the status of fast tracks for sure until more review can be done.

A jump in pending client action on applications tied up the department for most of last week. "All I did last week was pending client action," said Patterson, who also said the department is recruiting for a seventh person again. "It looks like its going to be a busy summer," he said.

Patterson expects the department will "break 100 applications a month in April or May." The amount of applications the department can handle is based on a staff of seven. "With a staff of seven in spring and fall — the slower months — we can keep it to two to three weeks," said Patterson of the amount of time it'll take to complete applications. "In summer it'll be impossible but we could keep it to four to six weeks."

The complaint level has also dropped according to committee members. Most calls that members received were "inquiries about how things were going." Some calls were from those who "had no room to complain" and were "just in a hurry."

The committee also discussed an additional fee for public swimming pools that were not prepared for health department's annual inspection. The department is tied up this time of year with 100 swimming pool inspections of 45 to 50 pools because the pools are not ready.

The committee voted to approve an additional \$50 re-inspection fee for pools on top of the \$100 annual fee already in place. The County Commissioners must approve the fee before it applies.

Health Dept. programs defined

By Susanna Hearn
Reporter

Stan Polanski presented a detailed talk

on the Macon County Health Department at the April 12 League of Women Voters meeting in Franklin.

Polanski, who has been with the health department since the late 70s, has seen the role of the health department within the community change over the years and, especially, since 9/11.

"The concept of preparedness for natural disasters changed because of 9/11," said Polanski. "Public health has become a leader in coordinating disaster preparedness. This is something that never happened before. An unexpected benefit of 9/11 is that we're much better prepared."

Polanski explained the issues that affect health in the community — income and social status, employment, gender, culture, education — and what the health department does to insure the "overall health of the community."

"Public health is everything that affects health," said Polanski. "Some things we do target isolated, defined parts of the population, others target everyone."

Public health in Macon County covers a range of issues from environmental health which responds to outbreaks of infectious diseases, rat infestations, and even dangerous dog reports, to prenatal care which provides education, counseling and testing, as well as follow up after delivery. According to Polanski the health department is "the

• See HEALTH DEPT. page 10

LETTERS-TO-THE-EDITOR POLICY

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

Highlands' Newspaper

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• OBITUARY •

Daniel Mathaney Brown III

Daniel Mathaney Brown III, 61 died April 11, 2007 after a courageous battle with cancer. Dan was born on May 4, 1945. He was a loving husband to Pam, a devoted father to Pat, and a proud grandfather to Daniel. Born and raised in Miami, FL, he moved to Highlands, NC ten years ago.

After graduating from Georgia Southern University and serving in the United States Air Force, Dan returned to Miami with his new family in 1972. He became a residential real estate appraiser with First Federal Savings and Loan and later started his own appraisal business in 1982 with Pam. They moved their appraisal business to Highlands, N.C. in 1997, where Dan continued working until shortly before his death. Dan made many lifelong friends throughout his career both in Miami and in Highlands.

Dan grew up sailing the waters of Biscayne Bay racing Snipe class sailboats with his father and family at Miami Yacht Club. Fishing in South Florida was always on his mind even after moving away from Miami. When not sailing and fishing, Dan devoted endless hours of his time and encouragement to his son's Khoury League baseball teams.

Dan also loved the mountains of Highlands, NC, which he discovered on his honeymoon in 1966. After 30 years of making it a vacation destination, he started calling Highlands home in 1997. However, it was Dan's love for fishing that led him back to Miami one last time. He fished for the final time in Flamingo with his son only two weeks before he died.

Dan died where he was born, in Miami, surrounded and loved by his family. He is survived by his wife of 40 years Pamela Dorn Brown, his son Patrick (Jean), and grandson Daniel Ross Brown. Also surviving are his father Robert L. Brown, his five siblings: Bobby, Sue, Linda, Mike and Patty. Dan was predeceased by his mother, Jane T. Brown.

Additionally, Dan is survived by a wonderful and caring extended family and many friends in FL and NC who loved and supported him during his life and through his illness.

Dan's family is very grateful to his brother-in-law Tom and his sister-in-law Sherri, who suspended her nursing career in Seattle to help care for Dan throughout his illness. Dan will be missed by all who knew him. He was a gentleman and loved a good laugh.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Fairchild Tropical Gardens in Miami or The Highlands Land Trust in North Carolina.

The family will accept visitors at Bryant Funeral Home in Highlands on April 21 from 2-4 p.m. Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



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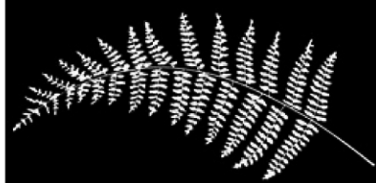
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All one level living in this Highlands Falls Country Club villa. Live year round or seasonally with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths, golf front views, two car garage and split floor plan. New roof and freshly painted this villa can be one of a kind with your furnishings and great style. Only \$555,000



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

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

You're a nappy-headed ...oops, never mind!

Honestly, I had forgotten the meaning of nappy until I woke up, turned on the TV and heard all the rant about Don Imus inappropriately using the term on his syndicated show, "Imus in the Morning." I have been watching the news ever since because what is unfolding is incredible. Iraq war; what Iraq war?

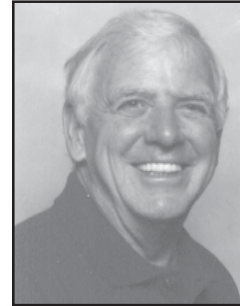
Fasten your seatbelts and prepare yourself for a little straightforward police talk from a veteran. For starters, the word

"ho" has been around for longer than I was ever a policeman. My black brothers, at least those who were cool, use the term back in my day to describe a whore or trashy woman. Whores were "hos." No big deal....it was a cultural thing. Then, after I retired, along came Gangster Rap and the word was changed to describe all women, from Mother Teresa to Rosie O'Donnell. In the rap world, if you're a woman, regardless of your color, you're a "ho." The word is repeated thousands of times each day in filthy songs on rap radio stations around the country.

Then, along comes Don Imus, who obviously has forgotten he is a white boy wearing a cowboy hat and calls the Rutgers girl basketball team a bunch of "nappy-headed hos." If that term were included in a rap song and even directed toward the team, it would be cool.

Let's all stand and applaud Imus for getting the dumb-ass award of the year. He engaged his mouth before his brain because he called a nice bunch of athletes a bunch of kinky haired whores. Imus mistakenly thought if Snoopy Dog could sing the word "ho" on the airways, he could say it. He didn't know there's a separate set of rules for old men with cowboy hats than for those who are cool black dudes with their baseball caps turned sideways.

As a police officer I have heard black people call each other "niggers" in arguments for years. It was common and still goes on today. Even black officers would use the term frequently and get away with it if the setting were appropriate. But a white guy using the "n" word was and is always inappropriate. So is the word "ho."



Fred Wooldridge

**Feedback
is encouraged!
email:**

askfredanything@aol.com

There is an ethnic double standard. So what?

Imus has been fired, not because the president of NBC heard his black employees say "that could have been my daughter" and was moved, or he read the emails and was moved, or he watched the Rutgers news conference and was moved. Imus was fired because Proctor and Gamble and Staples pulled millions of dollars in advertising if he was not fired. Bottom line: money talks and BS walks. Imus was going to be suspended from both

NBC and CBS for two weeks until advertising money was pulled.

Mind you, I am not putting blame on anyone here except Imus. He didn't shoot himself in the foot; he shot himself in the head. DUH! No....double DUH!

I never liked the show and never watched it so I say good riddance. I find his kind of liberal satire distasteful. That may sound weird coming from a guy who regularly makes fun of, insults and blasts everyone and everything under the sun. I would never attempt to put myself on a par with Don Imus for he is much cleverer than I. But there are similarities in our plights. We both love what we do, don't do it for the money and would miss it if forced to retire or get fired. We insult and stretch the truth. Someone is usually offended, even though it was just for fun.

Here is something you probably don't know. Kim Lewicki, my editor, is the bravest lady in Highlands. She takes a lot of heat from what I write. People have pulled their advertising because of comments I have put in print but she lets me write. Major advertisers have threatened to pull all their advertising if specific things were written but I continue to write.

As sure as God made little green apples, the time will come when she will have to fire me. I will inadvertently pull what I now call "an Imus" and she will have no choice but to let me go. Until then, I will continue to do what I do; wake up in the morning and look in the mirror to remind myself I am an old white man who writes satire. Then I'll sit down and write until the ax finally falls.

• ANOTHER VIEW •

Who has the right to bear arms?

"A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

A good many people argue that a gun is important to protect themselves and their families from intruders. I don't disagree, but I question if given the lethality of assault weapons and their frequent role is mass homicides, perhaps it might be appropriate to require homeowners to protect themselves with weapons with less fire power.

Of course, it is a trade off, but one which seems sane to me. Enough kids are killed by the gun Dad keeps around for protection so each family must decide for itself if the benefit outweighs the risk.

The killings at Virginia Tech, the single worst incident of its kind in American history, are sure to resurrect the gun debate in the United States. At the time of this writing 33 are dead, including the shooter, who apparently committed suicide. Who says that guns don't kill? I can't imagine this guy killing more than one or two with a pen knife and a sling shot. I didn't write that preposterous contrast to insult the memory of those who died, or trivialize the horrible needless loss of life. I did it not to shock you with my insensitivity, but to illuminate the absurdity of the argument. Guns don't kill. People do.

You can find the second amendment to the United States Constitution above. We don't hear much about a well regulated militia when the subject arises, only about "the right to keep and bear arms." If we are talking about a well regulated militia, assault weapons are far more suitable for the task of repelling invaders or rebelling against tyrants. Unfortunately, we learn every day in Iraq what a determined insurgency can do with very little in the way of weaponry.

Most of those who support the National Rifle Association minimize the value of guns as human killing machines and emphasize their importance to the sport hunter and to the preservation of American heritage. It stretches my imagination that a Kalishnikov assault rifle is an important tool for or symbol of either hunting or heritage.

The NRA and its members apparently believe that any weakening of the absolute right to own guns will lead to further erosion, and eventual elimination of the right altogether. I can understand that they would think that is a bad thing.



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.

email:

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It is interesting that the right to "bear arms" has been heavily restricted for the past century or so. When was the last time you saw a tourist strolling down Main Street with a six-gun strapped to his belt or an M-16 slung over his shoulder? My guess is that he would be an unwelcome guest in Kilwin's. The right, as provided in the second amendment, is not absolute, but is subject to legislative modification. As I've

explained, society has severely curtailed the right to bear arms. Permits are required to carry firearms, although gun racks in the rear windows of pick up trucks are still OK. I'll be honest. I feel safer when I see a carpenter's level or a fly rod on the rack.

The NRA is a powerful vote-producing machine and contributes heavily to candidates who support unrestricted gun ownership. When Mitt Romney, who supported strict gun control measures as governor of Massachusetts decided to pursue the presidency, he purchased a life-time membership in the NRA and claimed status as a life long hunter, despite considerable evidence that his total experience consisted of rabbit hunting as a teenager with his cousins in Idaho and shooting pen raised quail with financial backers last year in Georgia. I think it was John Kerry who showed up for a goose hunting trip with the price tags still on his camo gear. Courting the NRA is not restricted to either party, and candidates of both know that opposition to gun ownership can cost votes and elections. Although a little help from the NRA can deliver victory, assistance more frequently sought by Republicans, while Democrats seek support from the antigun crowd.

The horrible slaughter in Blacksburg confirms the need for balance for our gun control policy. Unfortunately much will be made of the tragedy for a few days, as was the case after the Columbine murders, until the public tires of the story. Then the NRA will mobilize the troops, alternately boosting and threatening candidates until the threat of reform has passed.

There will be another massacre in which "guns don't kill," and then another. These murders are especially tragic because they are preventable. But rest confident tonight that we will be well equipped to repel the Chinese invasion. Some of our citizens are already killing invading Mexicans at the border.

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• THE CONSERVATIVE POV •

Oh no, not again.



Don Swanson
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Last week I waxed poetic about the beauty of spring just in time to get whacked in the face by the dreaded GLOBAL COOLING! Twenty degrees below normal pretty well ended all the blooming things in my neighborhood. The heading of this column doesn't refer to my writing on global warming again; you'll see by the end of it if you last that long.

Let's flash back to late 2000, when election officials in South Florida were counting and recounting chads, hanging and otherwise, in order to determine the winner of the state electors and the national election. Enter the Florida Supreme Court and finally Katherine Harris, Florida Attorney General who drove the final nail in Al Gore's presidential coffin.

That was then, this is now. When Gore had gotten over his emotional meltdown following his loss, just like a bad Friday the 13th movie, he rises from the ashes to lead the campaign against global warming. Face it, the subject cannot be discussed without introducing Gore to the conversation. First, he established the previously explained carbon offset trading scam, from which he profits directly.

Next, he produces an alleged documentary which wins him an Oscar from the far-left Hollywood crowd. Even though the film is loaded with distortions, misleading inferences, unmerited hype, blatant demagoguery and just plain erroneous information, it does put Gore, once again, in the forefront of public discourse, a position he seems to covet above all else except, possibly, money.

Speaking of money, Gore is promoting a series of Live Earth concerts, originally scheduled to be located in all seven continents. Evidently, the events planned for the polar ice caps were moved when someone cautioned that perhaps a couple of thousand personal jets flying several thousands of miles to freeze their fannies listening to the Black Eyed Peas might bring an outcry because of the unnecessary emissions. Adding up the admission fees of perhaps several hundred thousand attendees plus television rights, Gore stands to rake in a ton of money.

I'm watching CNBC the other day, where I thought I was safe from such tripe, when Laurie David, a producer of

"An Inconvenient Truth," and Cheryl Crow, big time recording artist, were interviewed. These eco-crusaders are going around to many college campuses, propagandizing young minds with their apocalyptic forecasts due to global warming. I still fail to understand why people actually listen to a singer on a subject so difficult to understand that educated scientists can't agree on it.

I have some questions. Why are the same scientists, who said with certainty in the late 1960s and early 1970s that the world was entering a glacial (or ice) age, now saying we're toast in a hurry? Among them is the National Academy of Science. Were they wrong then or are they wrong now? Time will tell.

Second, why now? Why is all this hew and cry coming now? Surely the information supporting their theory has been around for a while. After all, the Kyoto fuss occurred in the late 1990s. Why not then? Let's get out the old pad and pencil and see if we can connect the dots.

Gore is in the public eye - big time. Gore is raising cash and lots of it through his movie, his carbon offset exchanges, his Live Earth concerts and schmoozing with corporate executives such as Jeff Immelt, General Electric's chairman and CEO.

GE produces many products which would benefit from agreeing that global warming is a threat. There are many other businesses which share GE's position.

Now if Gore were to have thrown his hat in the presidential ring months ago with the rest of the liberal Dems, what would he be doing? Fighting to get media notice along with Hillary, Obama and the rest of the far-lefties. He would be raising money to finance his campaign. He would be organizing grass roots support for campaign operations (can you say "college students?"). Well, it sure feels to me that Gore is running a stealth campaign and very successfully.

H. L. Menken is quoted as saying "The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed, and hence clamorous to be led to safety, by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary." Gore is nothing if not an expert in practical politics and global warming is his first hobgoblin. The one thing he has over the rest of the wannabees is a cause to which

• See CONSERVATIVE POV page 16

• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

Freedom of speech

Once heard someone say he liked to ask people to name the rights guaranteed in the First Amendment to the Constitution. He said most people could only name two or three, rarely did someone know four and almost never did anyone know all five.

The rights most people know are freedom of speech, press, and religion. (The other two are the right to assembly peacefully and to petition the government.) All five could be seen as variations on the right to free speech.

I just read a review of a new biography of Albert Einstein and was struck by his opinion of Americans: he admired our informality and our optimism, but most of all our love of free speech. Einstein is quoted as saying, "From what I have seen of Americans, I think that life would not be worth living to them without this freedom of self expression."

Free speech is a difficult right. It challenges us because we have to fight for the right for people whose speech offends us. When I was attending Northwestern in Evanston (north of Chicago), some Nazis wanted to march through the nearby town of Skokie. Even though everyone I know hated the idea of these men marching, I also remember the cordons of police protecting their sacred right as Americans to express their opinion.

Free speech was under attack almost before the ink had dried on the Constitution. The Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798 made it a crime to "write, print, utter, or publish . . . any false, scandalous, and malicious writing" about the president or Congress.

More recently, the Espionage Act was passed in 1917, just after the U.S. entered World War I, making it a crime to in any way interfere with recruitment by the military. The Act was amended the next year; the following is a part of the addition: "...whoever, when the United States is at war, shall willfully utter, print, write or publish any disloyal, profane, scurrilous, or abusive language about the form of government of the United States or the Constitution of the United States..." shall be liable to a fine of \$10,000 (\$169,517.90 in today's dollars) and 20 years imprisonment. About 900 people went to prison because of this Act.

I know of the following court case from watching the movie *People v Larry Flynt*. Larry Flynt, the publisher of *Hustler*



Katie Brugger
k-brugger@hotmail.com

magazine, is a perfect example of a person whose speech offends almost everyone.

In the 1980's he printed a satire of a liquor ad in his magazine. The fake ad featured Rev. Jerry Falwell, the famous evangelist. Falwell sued for libel and the case went all the way to the Supreme Court (you can see the ad at wikipedia.com).

Courtesy of Larry Flynt, this country was given a strong Supreme Court ruling protecting the right to criticize public figures written by none other than Chief Justice Rehnquist. The vote was 8-0 (Justice Kennedy recused himself because he was seated on the court after arguments were heard.)

HUSTLER MAGAZINE v. FALWELL, 485 U.S. 46 (1988):

"At the heart of the First Amendment is the recognition of the fundamental importance of the free flow of ideas and opinions on matters of public interest and concern. The freedom to speak one's mind is not only an aspect of individual liberty — and thus good unto itself—but also is essential to the common quest for truth and the vitality of society as a whole..."

"The sort of robust political debate encouraged by the First Amendment is bound to produce speech that is critical of those who hold public office or those public figures who are 'intimately involved in the resolution of important public questions or, by reason of their fame, shape events in areas of concern to society at large.' Justice Frankfurter put it succinctly in *Baumgartner v. United States*, when he said that '[o]ne of the prerogatives of American citizenship is the right to criticize public men and measures.' Such criticism, inevitably, will not always be reasoned or moderate; public figures as well as public officials will be subject to 'vehement, caustic, and sometimes unpleasantly sharp attacks...' www.laws.findlaw.com

Our government has lied to us many times. Our government has lied us into war more than once. World War I was one of those times. Our government passed a law to put people in prison to prevent the lie from being exposed.

Oftentimes when a government lie is first exposed it sounds "unreasonable," "immoderate," preposterous. The people who discover the lie are excoriated, denounced, humiliated. Then, after a time, everyone accepts it as obvious. (Watch *All the President's Men* for a refresher course on this process during

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Watergate.)

Free speech can make a person very unpopular. Adlai E. Stevenson Jr. said, "My definition of a free society is one in which it is safe to be unpopular."

I may be naïve but I think when speech is truly free the truth will always win out over lies (eventually). Unfortunately in our bitterly partisan time people on both sides attack others personally, even call them names, just

because they don't like what the other person is saying. Wouldn't it be nice if we could grow up and stick to the issues?

Einstein is also quoted as saying, "Laws alone cannot secure freedom of expression; in order that every man present his views without penalty there must be a spirit of tolerance in the whole population."

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Hokie Nation in mourning

Before I get into the tribute part of this article, I must apologize for my absence for the past three weeks. I've been battling mononucleosis for the second time in my life, but that's beside the point. I'm glad to be back, now on to the news.

Yesterday, I was out riding around with my father running a few errands when I got the news from my girlfriend, Kelly, that some guy went on a shooting rampage and killed 22 students at Virginia Tech. It hurt badly enough that I wanted to watch the news and find out what happened and why anyone would commit such a heinous act. The information is slowly growing and leaking out into the public, but last night I had one of the sickest feelings in my stomach I have ever felt before. I remember 9/11, I watched CNN throughout the day shaking my head in disbelief yet it did not affect me nearly as bad as this did. The attack in Chapel Hill, which also happened not too long ago, hit closer to home but still didn't hit me hard enough. I knew people who were injured by Mohammed Reza Taheri-azar when he drove the SUV through the Pit on campus, and while I was sad, I didn't cry.

I have no shame in admitting I stayed up for hours last night fighting back tears, sometimes just letting them out because of the pain I felt from other people. I am grateful that none of my friends were injured or killed, but it feels worse knowing that the parents of 32 people will never hear their child's laughter ever again. 32 young men and women will never graduate, and hundreds of thousands of people will mourn their deaths attempting to grasp how one person could coldly murder people he may not have even known. How many families and friends are left to pick up the pieces of their shattered lives? As the names of victims are released, an entire nation, regardless of affiliation, will wait with baited breath until their fears are calmed, or their worst nightmare begins.

As sports fans, or even those who hate sports can comment on this as well, all we can do is pray, meditate, and/or keep the families and friends of the victims of this tragedy in our minds and our hearts. I would love to show the rest of the world that regardless of



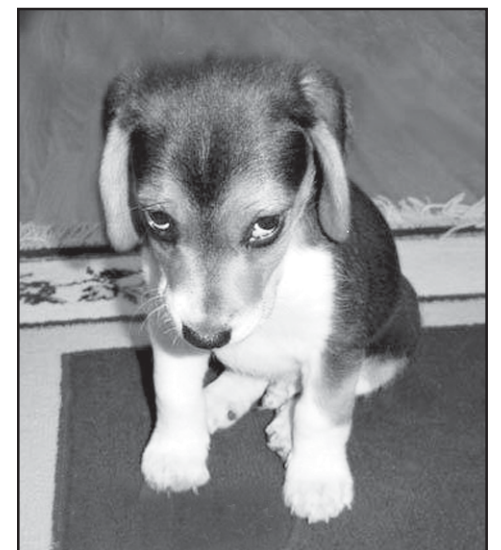
Christopher Potts
John Cleaveland Realty
feedback encouraged:
cpottswriting@gmail.com

what teams do on the field, we are all still people with compassion and a sense of brotherhood. It has been done before... but I want to see every uniform for the 2007-2008 season have some tribute to the students of Virginia Tech. After all, the students play for the university, the students cheer for their classmates, and the same students become alumni who support future students both on the field and in the classroom. Put

a little black stripe with the letters VT on the arm of each uniform, or across one of the shoulders, or even sewn onto the pants or shorts to show that we will never forget.

To everyone affected by this tragedy, my heartfelt condolences to you, your family, and your friends. To the rest of the media, quit attempting to point blame in any and every direction other than at the killer. The killer made the decision to go on the rampage, and right now the only thing that matters is the welfare of those involved. Let them mourn their losses before starting another massacre of the human spirit. Finally, to everyone: keep your spirits up. It is very hard to in times like these, but it's time for us to support those in need. And if you're having trouble doing that, just take a look at the following picture. Perhaps it will bring a smile to your face.

God Bless.



"I made you a cookie, but I
eated it."

... ETJ from page 1

be included based upon existing or projected urban development and areas of critical concern to the city as evidenced by officially adopted plans for its development."

Gurganus contends that the statement "officially adopted plans for its development" refers to the town's Land Use Plan which consistently refers to the Highlands Plateau in its mission statement. "Horse Cove and Clear Creek aren't on the Highlands Plateau," wrote Gurganus.

In the "Plateau Governance versus Goal" section of the Land Use Plan, the mission is to protect the Highlands Plateau including the town's water supply, the natural environment and the highway corridors.

Other goals include identifying areas for future annexation, reduce the potential for high impact development and ensure compatible developments adjacent to the town limits through zoning.

"Since the areas of Horse Cove and Clear Creek included in the town's ETJ November 2005 decision are not on the Highlands Plateau, these areas are not covered by the town's Land Use Plan as required by law prior to exercising extraterritorial jurisdiction," wrote Gurganus.

He also says instead of being adjacent to the town's limits, Horse Cove and Clear Creek are adjacent to U.S. Forest Service land.

"According to this information, it is my opinion that to extend ETJ and zoning to Horse Cove and Clear Creek violates the statute," wrote Gurganus.

He said a solution to the violation would be for the town to drop Horse Cove and Clear Creek from ETJ or for the town to adopt a new Land Use Plan with criteria listed for their inclusion.

Commissioners and Coward are considering a formal reply to Gurganus's letter.

Firm hired to design Town Hall complex

Work will soon begin on a plan for a new Town Hall complex.

At the April 18 Town Board meeting, commissioners agreed to hire the architectural firm of Sorin & Fisher from Asheville.

Phase I and II of the plan will involve a schematic plan based on a recent survey of the plat and interviews with town departments to assess needs.

It's unknown at this time if the ABC store building or the Town Hall as they now exist will be included in the plan.

Board members agreed to budget \$43,800 for the 2007-2008 budget year which will be used for the beginning phases of the project.

"Town Hall isn't adequate now and it won't be any better in 10 years," said Commissioner Amy Patterson.

The first phase of the project should be completed in 90-100 days.

... HOME continued from page 1

include home-occupations in R1 inside the town limits," said Commissioner Herb James. "Just because violations exist in town isn't a reason to change what's allowed."

Commission Alan Marsh agreed. "I think this should apply only to the ETJ area," he said.

Regardless, the following ordinance is set for a public hearing June 6 at Town Hall.

"Home occupations are certain occupations that may be pursued or carried on by the owner or lessee of a residence, or in a customary accessory outbuilding, under the following conditions:

- The residence must be the primary residence of the owner or lessee;
- The home occupation may only be pursued or carried on by the owner or immediate family members who reside on the property, as well as one person who is not a family member or resident. The one other person as provided for herein shall mean an employee, a partner or any other participant in the business;
- Adequate off-street parking must be provided for the home occupation;
- The home occupation may not create excessive noise, dust, smoke vibration,

smell, glare, electrical interference, traffic congestion, fire, chemical hazard or any other type of nuisance;

• A customary accessory building used for the home occupation may be located in the side or rear yard only;

• Home occupations may be identified only with one sign and exceeding four square feet per sign face nor illuminated in any way and may be freestanding wall or hanging;

• Home occupations may include by way of example and not by way of limitation, artist studios, cabinet and furniture makers, antique restorers, upholsterers, counselors, teachers — provided no more than five students per day or one class per day are permitted, dressmakers, beauticians with one chair permitted, computer programmers, business consultants, caterers — provided the kitchen is approved by the MC Health Department, repair shops, architects, attorneys, brokers, dentists, engineers, insurance agents, real estate agents, surveyors, and salespeople where no retail or wholesale goods are exchanged and family day care homes keeping less than six unrelated children.

• Home occupations may not include veterinary services, including the boarding of animals, commercial uses such as retail, wholesale or retail service businesses permitted in commercial zoning districts, automotive repair garages, and heavy equipment depots.

The ordinance could be adopted at the June 6 Town Board meeting.

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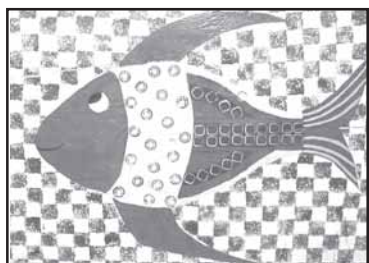
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... HEALTH DEPT. continued from page 2

largest provider of prenatal care in the county," and a large amount of their clientele is Hispanic.

He traced the roots of public health back to the 1800s when a push for clean drinking water initiated efforts to move sewage downstream. "At that time, it was not common knowledge that sewage should be located downstream," said Polanski.

In North Carolina, public health became a priority because of hookworms. These parasites live in the soil and are excreted by humans who are infected. At the time they were causing mass anemia. "The first large amount of money used for public health in NC was spent on building out-houses," said Polanski.

"There is always some tension when public health funds are being spent," said Polanski. Though public health tries to put their funds toward practical things that prevent illness there are always two groups — "people who want to spend money on those who are lower class and those who want to spend money on general public health."

"The population of Macon County has changed in the last few years," said Polanski. "A large percentage of people who are asking for services speak another language. We try to serve equally along with others in Macon County."

Polanski highlighted three new vaccines which are or will be

available soon. The Shingles vaccine will be provided next year for those who are in their sixties. Shingles is a reawakening of chicken pox which causes a severe and painful rash. "It is worth preventing," said Polanski, since the pain from a Shingle rash can last for months and sometimes years.

The tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis vaccine is being offered as well. Pertussis is whooping cough, and according to Polanski, whooping cough has declined because of vaccinating babies but the vaccine wears off by age 12. When adults and older children contract the disease, it may not be as severe, but it can be passed on to infants and small children if they have not been vaccinated.

The cervical cancer vaccine is available and being provided. "Early detection is what we have now," said Polanski. "Prevention is better than detection. Vaccines are always preferable to dealing with infectious diseases."

A statewide push for more professionalism in public health is also changing the way things are done, according to Polanski. Health departments must now be accredited and measure up to a detailed set of guidelines. The Macon County Health Department expects to receive an inspection by mid to late 2008.

... APARTMENTS continued from page 1

housing, but most likely in the form of apartment buildings.

"The next step is to put together a base design criteria maybe 12-18 unit buildings in a complex and run that by the various political committees to see if they would be accepted and to get support in the community," said committee member Dick Lawrence.

The committee believes the 145 survey responses is the fuel it needed to move forward with its plans to provide some sort of housing for "the working person."

"I think the results from the survey warrant us moving forward," said Committee members Bill Nellis and Lawrence.

The first question on the survey asked for the respondent's zip code. The majority of respondents live in Highlands — 47; 35 live in Franklin; 13 live in Cashiers; seven live in Otto; six live in Scaly Mountain; five live in Dillard; four live each in Clayton and Cullowhee and 24 live somewhere other than Highlands, Cashiers, Clayton, Cullowhee, Dillard, Franklin, Otto or Scaly Mountain.

The second question asked "Do you own or rent your home?"

Of the 145 responses, 106 own their homes, 23 rent and six listed "other" as the answer.

"I was amazed at the number of people who own which belies a little what we are trying to do," said Lawrence. "73% replied they own their own home."

The third question asked "How many persons currently live in your home?"

Twenty-seven people said they live alone; 51 people said they have two people living in their home; 35 live with three people; 21 live with four people; and 10 people live in a house with five or more people.

"The average person per household is 2.2 to 2.3 per working family household," said Mayor Don Mullen. "I thought it would have been higher."

Nellis said that may indicate a need for one-bedroom apartments rather than just two- or three-bedroom apartments.

The fourth question was "If you currently don't live in Highlands, would you be interested in living here if moderately priced housing were available?"

Forty-one people said yes; 44 people said no; 17 said maybe and 43 people didn't answer the question.

"I think this gives us our marching orders," said member Ginger Slaughter.

The last question was "Please share any suggestions you have about types of housing you would consider or concerns you have about community issues."

The answers were standard for Highlands. There's a need for affordable single-family, moderately priced housing; rental housing; small homes, condominiums, and rental apartments, said respondents.

"Everyone with income can rent, but not everyone with income can buy," said committee member Ginger Slaughter.

Chairman Mary Ann Sloan said the committee can't provide a place to live for everyone who works in Highlands, but survey results indicate something is needed.

Next the committee discussed where apartment complexes might be located. Slaughter asked if the town had any suitable property. There is a piece off Hickory Hill that the town has vowed to keep green; and Nellis said land around the old sewer plant might be an option.

Both Mayor Mullen and Town Administrator Richard Betz said most of the property in the

•See APARTMENTS page 13

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• STATE & FEDERAL POLITICS •

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Update From Raleigh

Normally the legislature tends to grab the headlines in Raleigh, especially while we are in session. This week Attorney General Roy Cooper decidedly captured local, state, and national headlines for his announcement about the Duke Lacrosse players. His office had the unenviable task of sorting through a sensitive and very public case that deals with some of the fundamental issues that our society is still seeking to address - namely class and race. We all saw, most of us on the national news, the poised and reasoned approach the Attorney General took.

Cooper's office took the time they needed to work through the facts and check them twice. His announcement was a crystal clear and straightforward presentation of the facts. Cooper did all of us proud in front of the entire nation. While there was most assuredly inappropriate and unethical behavior at the party from which this entire episode stemmed - Cooper was able to get through the haze of the rhetoric surrounding this case and get to the facts on the biggest stage our nation has.

This Week - Medicaid, Mental Health, Carbon Dioxide, Voting, and Barbeque

Medicaid

In addition to death and taxes Benjamin Franklin could have added increases in Medicaid costs to his list of things humans cannot avoid. North Carolina is the last state in the Nation that requires its counties to pay a portion of Medicaid costs. With the dramatic increases in health care and through that Medicaid costs many of our counties are being pushed to the very brink of their financial limits. While some of the larger counties such as Wake and Mecklenburg have no problems paying their share of Medicaid costs many of the counties in our district do. Swain County is the best example of a County that cannot afford this bill with over 80% of its land in federal protection and not able to be used for residential purposes it has no chance to gain the needed revenue to pay its Medicaid bill. The 100 counties of North Carolina are projected to

spend \$517 Million for the non-federal share of Medicaid in 2007-2008. The counties are pushing very hard to make the State take on this burden.

On the other side of this problem, however, is the fact that North Carolina counties do not have to pay for many of the things that other counties have to pay for in other states. The State of North Carolina pays for the roads, schools, and many of the other services that other counties in the other states have to pay for. Given the fact that the state is picking up the tab for all of these services it will not be easy for us to find the money to pay for Medicaid.

The reason to pay for Medicaid is that in smaller but growing counties such as ours there are significant and fundamental needs, such as paying for new sewer lines and other infrastructure that their Medicaid dollars could go to. Our counties need the additional money to provide a high standard of living that is needed to recruit quality and robust businesses and workers. If, by taking the Medicaid burden off the counties, we are able to help counties free up the money they need to invest in themselves and their infrastructure needs, then they ought to be able to achieve a return on investment to justify the additional state expense.

The effort to relieve Medicaid expense from the counties is moving most rapidly through the house in the form of House Bill 1424. Most of the House has signed onto this bill and I think you will find broad support for this measure in both chambers.

Mental Health

The mental health situation in North Carolina is in a pitiful mess. Earlier this week Secretary of Health and Human Services Carmen Hooker Odom announced that the rate for one-on-one services for people with mental illnesses will be cut by one-third. After a tremendous and justifiable outcry from providers of mental health services, the Secretary announced that the cut will be less than what she originally announced but will be retroactive to April 5th. This comes in the face of several independent consultant reports that say that the mental health system needs tremendously more money - not less to fix the system. With that said, it seems that the North Carolina Department of Health and Human

Services seems unwilling to do what is necessary to truly advocate for the money and infrastructure that is needed to make the program work. This was reflected as much in the Governor's budget while the mental health community languishes.

Mental Health Care is something that is often not talked about when we think and talk about our State Government. However, mental health problems are often treatable and can greatly improve the lives of the people and families who receive this care. Because of a severe lack of leadership that does not encompass crisis management centers and clear performance goals, too many North Carolinians are going without the care they need to make their lives and those of their families better.

Carbon Dioxide

A very disturbing report was released this week using U.S. Department of Energy Data which ranks North Carolina in the top four states for increases in carbon dioxide emissions in the nation. The report states that carbon dioxide emissions grew by 18 percent in the United States during the 14-year period from 1990 to 2004. Though North Carolina did not rank in the top 10 for total carbon dioxide emissions during the period, it did claim the fourth-highest spot for absolute increases in emissions.

According to the report, carbon dioxide emissions increased by 36 percent from 1990 to 2004, twice the national increase. Over that period, North Carolina's carbon dioxide emissions increased more than 39 million metric tons, from 110 MMT in 1990 to 149.2 MMT in 2004. Only Texas, Florida and Illinois recorded larger absolute increases over the 14-year time frame. Emissions from coal-fired plants increased by 52 percent in North Carolina from 1990 to 2004, totaling 69.4 MMT, or about 46 percent of the state's total CO2 emissions that year. North Carolina's transportation also saw significant growth in CO2 emissions, which increased 35 percent from 37.8 MMT in 1990 to 51.1 MMT in 2004. Emissions from motor gasoline consumption gained 30 percent between 1990, when they totaled 28.1 MMT, and 2004, when they topped 36.5 MMT.

While the report links these increases in carbon dioxide with global warming, I feel that there are some more tangible problems that it presents that we need to be concerned about. A number of years ago I traveled to Los Angeles and the one thing that I will never forget about that city is the smog. Smog covers the city and permeates every aspect of life there. Every week, when I drive back into the district from Raleigh, I notice that the mountain view just isn't as clear as it used to be. We are also having more folks go to the doctor with Asthma than we were even 10 or 15 years ago. Studies have linked asthma with dirty air.

North Carolina is experiencing a tremendous population boom and this year we are being offered some policy solutions that could greatly impact how much air pollution we allow on a yearly basis. Some of these proposed solutions are going to be controversial but they are the conversation we should have to ensure that we don't lose what is special about North Carolina just because we are trying to grow.

Voting

OnPoint Polling and Research of Raleigh released some numbers that stunned me. Not polling results, but demographics. According to OnPoint, here is how the active-voting population of North Carolina breaks down by age:

18-19: 1%; 20-29: 5%; 30-39: 7%; 40-49: 23%; 50-59: 22%; 60-69: 24%; 70-79: 14%; 80+: 5%

In other words, only 13 percent of the voters are under 40! That's less of the electorate than people aged 70-79. Nearly two-thirds of all voters (65 percent) are over 50.

Senator Dole representative coming to Franklin April 23

U.S. Senator Elizabeth Dole today announced that a representative from her Western office will hold traveling office hours in Macon County on Monday, April 23, 2-3 p.m. at the Macon County Courthouse Law Library, 4th Floor.

Constituents can use the office hours to hold individual meetings to discuss their concerns with federal agencies, case work, or issues pending before Congress. Appointments are not necessary, but can be scheduled by calling 828-698-3747.

• See STATE & FEDERAL POLITICS page 17



The Boy Scouts are having
a car wash on Saturday at
First Citizen's Bank from
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
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I'm DonLeon and that's
MY opinion.

Local inspired in Taos, NM

Cynthia Stacey, aka Thea of the singer-songwriter duo Thea & The Green Man, recently returned from five weeks in Taos, NM where she was "Artist & Writer in Residence."

Having been awarded the residency by the Frank Waters Foundation, Thea wrote essays, poetry, a song, worked on her Creative Non-Fiction Book, "Raven," and took photographs which she plans to exhibit in Highlands this summer. She stayed in the historic Frank Waters home next to Taos Pueblo land at the base of Taos sacred mountain. The Frank Waters Foundation was created by Frank Waters, the Grandfather of Southwestern Literature, and his wife, Barbara Waters for the purpose of preserving Frank's work and home as a museum, and to nurture the creative spirits of artists and writers who are selected through a qualifying process for the residencies.

Thea not only produced a volume of work to fulfill her residency, she also performed live and was interviewed on KTAO, the largest solar powered radio station in the



Taos Pueblo land at the base of Taos sacred mountain

world, to promote her new CD, "My Mother's Garden."

Her husband, Chuck, aka The Green Man, Willhide was able to spend a week with her exploring the Southwest frontier and the

sustainable technologies being developed in the area from wind power to off-the-grid earthships. You can find her on the web at www.theaskitchen.com or www.starpony.com

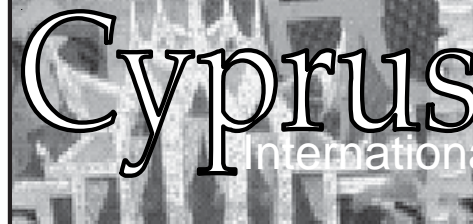
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... APARTMENTS continued from page 10



Developer Dick Lawrence showed committee members the affordable housing complexes he built in the Caribbean for \$101 a sq. ft. using alternative building materials.

gully between the Rec Park and Oak Street where the old sewer plant is located is restricted by PARTF grant stipulations in connection with the Rec Park, so it's an unlikely place. In addition, it's a main Greenway artery.

"Land for this housing will most likely be in the county so we need participation of the county," said Mullen.

County Manager Sam Greenwood said it sounds like the town's plans to build apartment-style housing for working people fits perfectly with the Macon County Commission's plan to do the same.

"The board has vowed to focus on the affordable housing issue and it would likely look favorably on anything Highlands has in mind," said Greenwood. "There would be no collision of intent between the county and Highlands. Affordable housing wherever it is in the county, is needed."

Recently, there has been some confusion as to who is the HUD housing authority in the county. Greenwood said though initially HUD planned on signing over its housing rental subsidy program to the county rather than its current representative Macon Program for Progress has changed.

"They were going to transfer that program to the county on July 1, but have recently voiced legal objections, but HUD can operate its rental subsidy program wherever it wants to," said Greenwood. "That's not what the county is involved with, anyway."

Greenwood said the county is the official housing agency for the area. As such it will be heading up programs for homeownership and housing repair programs and will help Highlands any way it can.

Committee members discussed the old landfill property – not to be confused with the landfill now in operation – both on Rich Gap Road. Supposedly, there's an 80-acre tract owned by the county, much of which was never used as a landfill.

Mullen suggested talking to the county about available county land. He also said there is a 30-40 acre private parcel which has been offered by an organization, "but the offer isn't solid yet," he said.

Frequent survey responses revolved around the cost of living in Highlands. "The cost of living in general is too high – gro-

ceries, restaurants, gas, etc.," wrote respondents. "There is no place to shop for what is needed – even to buy a pair of Levi jeans."

Wages are considered too low by respondents. "I believe salaries need to be increased to make it worthwhile to tackle the mountain roads, time and distance for jobs. Wages don't meet the cost of living in Highlands," said some.

Child care was a big issue and prompted the committed to consider offering child care within the proposed apartment complexes.

"Child care is difficult to find and overpriced. Child care needs to be flexible and affordable open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.," wrote respondents.

Sloan said the operation and construction of child care centers is extremely difficult but family-care providers – where people care for children in their homes – might be a better scenario. She said even though home facilities have to be licensed it would likely be less expensive alternative to formal child care center. She is going to look into the rules and regulations regarding family-care providers.

Respondents said entertainment and community activities were lacking, too.

"It's too far to drive to enjoy any activities," said others. "There is nothing to do and Highlands is forever away from everything."

Property taxes were a big issue. "Recent increases in county taxes certainly hasn't helped. Middle income families suffer the most in Highlands. Property taxes are high. This affects those of us who do own homes," wrote some.

The committee also discussed requiring developers to set aside funds or a percentage of their sites for moderately priced housing.

Members also discussed a multiple listing for rental apartments and houses in Highlands to ensure rentals were safe and in a well maintained condition.

Finally, the committee is urging anyone who might have land suitable for an apartment complex for "working people" to come forward. Land swaps might also be an option, members said.

– Kim Lewicki

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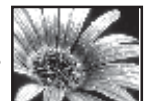
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Highlands MountainTop Rotary inducts new member



MountainTop Rotary welcomes new member Jan Van Hook to its morning Rotary group. Jan is the Membership Director at the Highlands Chamber of Commerce. Pictured is Rotarian Al Bolt giving Jan her Rotary pin during her induction on March 30th.

Volunteers are key for Highlands-Cashiers Hospice Program

Volunteers with Highlands-Cashiers Hospice play a vital role in touching the lives of those who are facing the end of life, and the organization is taking time during National Volunteer Week this week to say thank you to them, and to encourage others to become part of the program.

"We are honoring our Hospice volunteers because they give selflessly of themselves to provide comfort and support to those nearing the end of life's journey," said Monica Crook, RN, director of the local Hospice program, which is a part of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. "These volunteers are the faces and hands of caring."

Hospice volunteers regularly visit patients, read to them, talk with them, even sing and pray with them. They also provide brief respites for family members who are primary caregivers, and even run errands for those who are homebound. To be a Hospice volunteer requires a serious commitment. Volunteers must undergo special training, but perhaps the most important quality is just being a good listener.

"I think being good listeners is one of the most important things we do as volunteers," says Hospice volunteer Patsy Mullen. "It's about being able to listen. Letting people tell their stories. Find-

ing as many ways as we can to bring quality of life to the time they have left. It's all about bringing joy."

And the rewards come back around. "We go to make them feel better and they always end up making us feel better," she adds.

The organization is coming off what is perhaps its busiest year ever. It served 32 patients and their families last year, providing nearly 1,100 days of service.

Volunteers are part of the team that includes nurses, a dietitian, a social worker, a member of the clergy, a medical director, and bereavement counselors, among others. The goal is not to hasten death, nor to prolong life, but to create a loving, secure, and peaceful environment for the last months of a precious life.

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital began offering hospice services to residents of southern Macon and Jackson Counties more than six years ago, when it took over Hospice of Macon County. Highlands-Cashiers Hospice is fully accredited and licensed and has a tradition of compassionate care.

More volunteers are always needed. Anyone wishing to become a volunteer should contact Highlands-Cashiers Hospice at 526-1402 or they can email hospice@hchospital.org.

Earth Day to feature special guests

This Saturday, April 21, Highlands and Cashiers will celebrate the third annual Earth Day in the Mountains at the Village Green in Cashiers from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will feature live music from local favorites, food and games, in addition to information booths from local businesses and nonprofit organizations.

The 2007 event will also feature a special new addition. A 10-week-old black bear cub will be making an appearance alongside several other wild critters from the Ellijay Wildlife Rehabilitation Sanctuary. The cub, named Glimmer, was rescued after hunters killed her mother. At just a few weeks old, she was unable to survive by herself in the wild. Due to state law that prevents the release of rehabilitated bears back into the wild, Glimmer will be a permanent resident at Ellijay Wildlife Rehabilitation Sanctuary, along with five other bears-in-residence.

The black bear cub will provide a unique opportunity for folks to get close to such a wild and elusive animal that is so prevalent in our area. "We are hoping to educate people about the threat that humans play in the existence of bears in our area. After meeting Glimmer you can't help but have a renewed appreciation of the wildness of these animals," says Katy Calloway, one of the event organizers.

In addition to Glimmer, EWRS will bring a lynx, a screech owl, an opossum, and other small mammals and reptiles. The Ellijay Wildlife Rehabilitation Sanctuary's participation in Earth Day is made possible by McKee Properties in Cashiers. The animals will be at the Village Green from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.. There will be an educational program about Glimmer and the other animals beginning at 1 p.m.



Glimmer, a black bear cub rescued after her mother was killed by hunters will join other wildlife at the fair Saturday on the green in Cashiers.

... WIND STORM continued from page 1



Above, a sign at U.S. 64 and Johnwood Road told of residents without power; left, town crews right a utility pole on Oak Street and bolster its base with boulders; students in Ms. West's class study by "natural light" during Monday's short day at school.

Photos by Kim & Jim Lewicki

tric in Clear Creek, Blue Valley, Satolah, GA in South Carolina, and others – were still without power.

Folks on the hospital line in Highlands and Cashiers fared best, including the Blue Ridge School in Cashiers which is on the line.

"The hospital probably fared better than most organizations during the outage," said Skip Taylor, public relations director. "Like everybody else there was some inconvenience but we didn't have any major problems because we are on generators."

Some lighting was out but some of the radiology equipment was usable. The MRI in the Jane Woodruff Clinic is on its own generator, and still functions in an outage.

Fortunately, the Radiology department had a light schedule on Monday, said Taylor. "We can use a portable x-ray unit in a pinch for conventional x-rays." Some appointments for things like mammograms were rescheduled, but there were no emergency x-ray issues.

Taylor said there was one non-emergency surgery scheduled, but the patient canceled. The emergency room had a relatively busy day but there were no major



problems there.

"All in all, we didn't have any major issues. We keep 20,000 gallons of fuel on hand, enough to run the generators for three to five days with backup plans to get more fuel on short notice if need be," said Taylor.

The hospital kitchen was only partially functional but the staff kept everyone fed with a few menu changes on short notice.

Highlands School didn't have power, but Principal Brian Jetter opted for a two-hour delay on Monday combined with an early dismissal at 11:30 a.m.

School rooms, though darker than usual, were lit with natural light pouring through the bank of windows that line each classroom.

"If we didn't have school, we would have had to have school on Memorial Day and I thought a delay and early dismissal would be less disruptive than taking away a family holiday," he said.

Jetter said if the buses run, the school day counts. With the help of buses and parents, most students made it to school by 10 a.m. Monday. However, no one will be penalized for being absent or for having a tar-

dy Monday, said school Administrator Assistant Judy Smart.

Without power in town or in the township, Main Street was like a ghost town all of Monday. However, though dark and minimally operational, Bryson's Food Store was open as usual. Employees escorted patrons around with flashlights.

Fred Alexander, with Duke Power, said by 8 a.m. Monday, about 4,200 customers were without power because of the high winds that began in the Nantahala Area late Sunday.

By late Monday afternoon, service was restored to more than half of Duke customers and service was restored to most Nantahala area customers by midnight Tuesday.

"The exception was the Cashiers area in southern Jackson County where the estimated time of restoration was midnight Wednesday," he said. "Many Cashiers homes were in somewhat isolated areas and more than half are unoccupied summer homes."

During the height of the windstorm Sunday night, Cashiers rescue crews were

•See WINDSTORM page 16

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... CONSERVATIVE POV continued from page 6

he and he alone is the chief advocate.

What would Gore's administration (God forbid) look like? He would push a "solution" to global warming in the form of a regulatory agenda that will amount to more taxes and new restrictions on our energy consumption. His agenda is so severe that he calls for the ban on incandescent light bulbs. For American families, this means higher home energy costs and paying the same inflated gas

prices that European nations face.

For American industry, these restrictions will cost hundreds of thousands of jobs while countries like China that don't subscribe to these strict policies take up the slack. He also would call for a moratorium on coal-fired power plants. With some states receiving over 90% of their energy from coal, this would devastate our economy and threaten to create a modern-day energy crisis.

Is Gore in it only for the money? I doubt it. If you see him losing some of his girth in the next few months, you can take his running to the bank. He's so clever he could probably get the nomination as his present bloated self. Al Gore running again? Oh no, not again. As for me, I'm checking out New Zealand really seriously. Stay tuned.

MC schools salute volunteers

In observance of National Volunteer Week, Macon County Schools recognizes and honors their volunteers who make a huge difference in the lives of students. The 2007 national theme is "Inspire By Example" because it truly reflects the power volunteers have to inspire the people they help, as well as, to inspire others to serve!

On average, volunteers all over the Macon County School System contribute over 190 hours of service each day. This equals approximately 23 extra staff people, or two extra full-time persons at each school, helping to build walking tracks, teaching students to learn to read, helping in the lunchroom, and fundraising. Volunteer hours contributed on average to a Macon County student since August 2006 is over 6 hours per child.

Since the beginning of the school year last August, over 27,000 hours have been recorded. For the 2005-2006 school year, over 35,000 hours were recorded. "For the last three years, we have averaged over 38,500 hours annually," stated Jones. "I'm

excited to see what our total will be this year. With the school budget the way it is, this is a very cost-effective way to provide one-on-one support to our students." Volunteer hours are also used as an in-kind match when the school system is pursuing extra revenue through grants.

Duties of volunteers in the Macon County School System are varied and include teaching art, helping with the fluoride rinse program, shelving library books, and reading to and tutoring students. Many volunteers help outside the classroom by organizing and attending PTO meetings, working with coaches and teachers to support educational efforts. Volunteers are welcomed whether they can give once a week, daily or for a special event.

Volunteers are an important and necessary resource whose real impact cannot be measured. Volunteers for proctoring the state End of Grade and End of Course tests. If you are interested, please contact Jennifer Jones at 524-4414 x 324 or any Macon County school.

... WINDSTORM from page 15

called to a home where a man was stuck on his roof. He had climbed up there to secure something, the ladder blew away and when the crews got there, he was hanging on to the weather vane for dear life.

Outage estimates were: Cherokee County — 60; Graham — 34; Jackson — 2,156 (2,138 in the Cashiers area); Macon — 1,500; and Swain — 450.

Additional Duke and contractor crews from Georgia, Alabama, and SC helped with restoration.

Town personnel at Town Hall fielded countless calls about outages including reports of downed trees and lines. Mayor Don Mullen said since the town relies on Duke for its power there is little it can do if the problem lies with Duke, but Town Engineer Lamar Nix said the town had problems, too.

His crews responded to well over 100 calls and as of Monday night, logged 450 man-hours. "That's a lot of man-hours in a short amount of time," he said. "When the problem was with the feed to us from Duke we couldn't fix it, but at times we couldn't turn it on because we'd get something fixed and another tree would fall," he said.

Town crews were seen all over the place

righting poles lashed by the wind, restringing sagging lines and removing downed trees long into the night Monday. Even after some power was restored, the wind kept blowing and trees kept falling.

One major Highlands-area problem was caused by a Duke pole that fell on Shortoff Road 13 ½ miles from the power station. Duke solicited help from Franklin crews to handle the job.

Approximately 130,000 customer outages remained through Wednesday in Duke Energy's service area in the Carolinas due to Monday's windstorm.

More than 217,500 customers experienced power outages at the peak Monday as wind gusts from 40 to 60 miles per hour swept through the Carolinas. Severe damage from the storm resulted in uprooted trees, broken utility poles and downed power lines.

Duke Energy crews from the Carolinas and Midwest, assisted by over 800 additional personnel from outside the company's service area, continue to assess the damage to the electrical system and restore power as quickly and safely as possible. The storm caused a total of 416,000 customer outages

• See WIND STORM page 17

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Visitors and friends are welcome!

• STATE & FEDERAL POLITICS •

(continued from page 11)

By Heath Shuler

U.S. Representative, NC-11

We recently marked the end of the first 100 days of the 110th Congress. Those first 100 days proved quite busy in the House of Representatives. We have passed close to 100 bills, returned fiscal responsibility to our budgeting process, and have begun to restore accountability and transparency to our government.

We have been able to pass bills that have raised the minimum wage for the first time in nearly a decade; cut the interest rates for student loans to help more young people attend college; allowed the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate lower drug prices for America's seniors; and strengthened our nation's security implementing the findings of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission. We have also passed legislation giving over \$1 billion in tax cuts to small businesses; increasing support for alternative energy; protecting the rights of American workers; and adding transparency to the process of Congressional earmarks.

While we in the House await action on many of these initiatives by our colleagues

in the Senate, Americans should know that the days of "Do-Nothing" Congresses have ended. We have much left to do in the coming weeks and months, but this Congress is working as hard as the families we represent.

Over the past two weeks I have had the opportunity to travel throughout the 11th District and meet with many residents. During that Spring District Work Period, Western North Carolina was struck by several days of freezing temperatures that destroyed many of the crops in Henderson County, and across the region. Assisting our farmers and ensuring they have the resources they need to persevere through these difficult times will be a main focus of mine in the coming weeks. I have already sent a letter to President Bush asking for him to assist our farmers. Governor Easley has requested the North Carolina State Emergency Board to submit U.S. Farm Service Agency Potential Natural Disaster Damage Assessment Reports, to assist and avoid any delay in evaluating a disaster designation request.

I will continue looking for other ways to assist our farmers.

Macon County to sponsor blood drives May 15 & 16

The American Red Cross urges residents in the Macon County area to donate blood. All blood types are needed at this time.

Because blood can be separated into three components—red cells, plasma and platelets—a single donation can save up to three lives. In the more than 100 area hospitals served by the American Red Cross, pre-mature babies, accident victims and patients with cancer or recovering from surgery need approximately 1,500 units of blood or blood products each day.

Eligible blood donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in general good health. Donors must have a form of positive identification in order to donate.

The Franklin Community will sponsor an American Red Cross blood drive on Thursday, May 3 from 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The blood drive will be held at First Baptist Church of Franklin, located at 69 Iotla Street in Franklin, NC. Call Joe Susternak 369-9559 for more information or to schedule an appointment. All donors can enter a drawing for a trip to Disney World!

Lyndon B. Johnson CCC is sponsoring an American Red Cross blood drive on Tuesday, May 15 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the job corps located at 3170 Wayah Road in Franklin, NC. Call Jerry Buschmann at 524-1403 for more information or to sched-

ule an appointment. All presenting donors can enter a drawing for a trip to Disney World!

The Holly Springs Community is sponsoring an American Red Cross blood drive on Wednesday, May 16 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. The blood drive will be held at Holly Springs Baptist Church, located at 366 Holly Springs Church Road in Franklin, NC.

... WINDSTORM from pg 16

across the Carolinas. At its peak Monday, April 16., about 217,500 customer outages were still reported.

As of Tuesday night, service had been restored to all but 1,400 Duke Energy customers in the Nantahala Area.

The exception is the Cashiers area in southern Jackson County where the estimated time of restoration was midnight Wednesday. Restoration for outages in some of the harder hit areas will occur by the end of the week.

"We deeply appreciate the tireless work of volunteers, county emergency management teams, law enforcement, DOT, and the public help us respond to this incredible windstorm," said Fred Alexander, business relations manager with Duke Energy. "The last time I saw winds like these was the Blizzard of 1993." — **Kim Lewicki**

... MULLEN continued from page 2

The Adopt-a-Highway program is being coordinated by the county. If your organization wants to take on this responsibility, please call Rebecca Hartsell at 524-2517 for being assigned an area in which to work. This is also a month of town clean-up and painting to get ready for the busy late spring and summer season as we look forward to our second-home owners and tourist to begin to flock into town. Our public works employees led by Lamar Nix will be working hard to make our town look good.

During the recent severe wind storm which resulted in power outages throughout our area, our Public Works Department worked many overtime hours in repairing the damages caused by the storm locally. One of the Duke Power main lines which serves most of our town from outside our county was taken down and it took them many hours to repair it. All of these workers are to be commended for the long hours and outstanding job which was done in bringing conditions back to normal in a reasonable time.

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HELP WANTED

FULL OR PART-TIME RETAIL SALES

– Weekends required – no exceptions. Must be responsible, professional appearing, enthusiastic and have retail sales experience. Call The Summer House in Highlands at 828-526-5577.

4/26

PART-TIME OFFICE ASSISTANT

NEEDED for general office work & ticket sales. Some travel between Highlands & Cashiers. 10 - 20 hrs. per week. Call 526-9060 for more information.

NICK'S FINE FOODS now open at its new location on Main Street is taking applications for waitstaff and experienced line cook for lunch. 5-6 days a week. Apply in person before 11 a.m. or after 3 p.m. or call 526-2706.

HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB is taking applications for female massage therapists for the 2007 season. We offer competitive benefits, employee meals, and flexible schedules. Please fax resume to 828-526-9608 or mail to LEC, P.O. Box 220, Highlands, NC 28741. Applications may also be obtained by calling 828-526-0501, or at the Club Office, 981 Dillard Road, Highlands. 4/12

N.C. LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST AND COSMETOLOGIST NEEDED. Call 828-526-9477. 4/6

HELP WANTED AT SCALY MOUNTAIN GENERAL STORE AND BP STATION. Flex hours, premium pay. Come by for interview and application.

HIGHLANDS FALLS COUNTRY CLUB is now accepting applications for full and part-time seasonal employment for Clubhouse, dining, golf course and golf shop operations. Highlands Falls offers flexible work schedules and competitive benefits. Applicants must possess good communication skills and enjoy the service industry. To arrange for an application please call Glenda Creel at 526-4118.

FRESSERS EATERY – Now hiring team players. Apply in person before 11:30 a.m. or after 3 p.m. at 151 Helen's Barn Ave. in Highlands. Also accepting

applications for Fressers Express.

LOOKING FOR PART-TIME CLEANING HELP – for banks in the Highlands-Cashiers area. Call 828-691-6353.

STAFF RADIOLOGIC TECH AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL Full-time, Monday through Friday position. Must be ARRT certified. Previous experience preferred. Call rotation required. Full benefits after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

HOUSEKEEPER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER. PRN position needed. Various days. Experience in hospital cleaning preferred. Other housekeeping experience helpful. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

EARN WHILE YOU LEARN! Become a Certified Nursing Assistant for Fidelia Eckerd Living Center at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Now accepting applications for out next class beginning April 23, 2007. Students will be paid while in class Mondays through Fridays for 6 hours a day. Upon graduation, students passing the exam will become a Certified Nursing Assistant and will receive a substantial increase in pay. Full benefits available after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. If interested, call Robbin Houston at 828-526-1317 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

CNA OR CNA II IN ACUTE CARE. Full-time, 12 hour shifts. Our NEW WAGE SCALE for CNA's is \$11.00 to \$14.40 per hour, and you also receive shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

STAFF SONOGRAPHER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Full-time, Monday through Friday position. Must be registered by the ARDMS and ARRT. Echocardiography and MRI experience preferred. Radiology and Ultrasound call rotation required. Full benefits after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RN'S AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER. Full, Part-time and PRN positions available for 12 hour day and night shifts. Excellent wage scale, with shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits available after 60 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

COOKS AND DIETARY AIDES AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL.

Various shifts and days available. Must be able to work weekends and be able to read and speak English. Salary depends on experience. Full benefits available after 60 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

CNA OR CNA II We have available Full, Part-time, and PRN positions at the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center for day and night shifts. Our NEW WAGE SCALE for CNA's is \$11.00 to \$14.40 per hour, and you also receive shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits after 60 days to full-time employees. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

WANTED TO RENT

LOCAL COUPLE SEEKS 2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH HOUSE In town. Unfurnished, Maximum of \$900 a month rent. Will take great care of house, very clean and handy. Call 526-9606.

FOR RENT

1 BEDROOM APT – 6 month lease. Queen bed, patio, utilities included. No pets. \$650 per month plus deposit. Call 828-526-2679.

TWO-STORY APARTMENT FOR RENT ON CHENEY LANE – 3 minutes from Highlands. One-year lease agreement. Recent renovation. Fully furnished. Two-bed, 2 baths; extra large closets. Kitchen with dishwasher and new Jenn-Aire cookstove; many kitchen cabinets. Washer/dryer; dining area; living room; cable and telephone connection. Native stone fireplace. \$1,000 per month includes water, sewer, electricity. Single-family. References required. No pets, no smoking. Call Jim at 1-770-789-2489.

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

CUTE AND VERY PRIVATE 1 BR 1 BA house in the Town Limit. Includes additional sleeping loft/office, large deck, gentle yard and babbling creek. Fully furnished or unfurnished available weekly or monthly but prefer annual lease. Broker owned. (828) 421-7922.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY – 1,500 sq. ft. Plenty of parking. In town. \$1,500 a month. Call 770-827-0450. 5/3

VIEW FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL PRIME OFFICE SPACE

— 900 sq. ft of renovated space with new central heat and air, hardwood floors, kitchen/full bath, separate entrance through courtyard garden, some office furniture available. Three phone lines/DSL ports for office. Very roomy with lots of natural light, great walkout balcony with bistro table off office space. Great for non-smoking entrepreneur who is seeking good downtown Highlands location. Available immediately, for rent & terms contact (828) 526-9990.

NEW SPACES FOR LEASE IN HIGH TRAFFIC LOCATION

— Lease now for the 2007 season in Highlands Plaza. 600 sq ft – 8,000 sq ft available in new lower level or 1,200 sq ft on main level near Bryson's. Call 864-630-0808 today to lease your space in "The Most Visited Location In Highlands."

2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH DREAM CAB-

IN! 5 minutes from Highlands in Scaly Mtn. New appliances, new carpet, with amazing view! Stone/Wood Cabin with carport and separate workshop and wonderful landscaped property! \$825 per month. Annual Lease. Call 423-894-9566

COTTAGE OFF NORTON ROAD

— (seasonal or yearly) – 1 bed, 1 bath cottage – great view – quiet location – only 1 mile off of U.S. 64. Close to Highlands and Cashiers. \$700/month. Call Kelsey 404-788-1304.

VACATION RENTAL – The Lodge on Mirror Lake, fish or canoe from deck. Available weekly, monthly, 3-day min. Call 828-342-2302.

BEAUTIFUL CHALET for you in downtown Highlands. Two blocks off downtown Main St. Wonderful wide porch for entertaining on Highlands Creek. Beautiful new tongue-n-grove in kitchen and bath. 2 bd/1full bath. 1500 sq ft with additional 900 sq ft basement for your office or storage needs. Beautiful brand new furniture, new carpet, new wood floors in kitchen. Fireplace. Awesome location. 1 year lease, negotiable. \$1395. (772) 631-2602 or (772) 919-2384.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

NEW HOME ON DENDY ORCHARD ROAD minutes from town just past Bridal Veil and Dry Falls. Nice paved access. 2-bedroom, 1 bath, chalet with 1,177 sq. ft., loft, fireplace, vaulted great room, some view. \$169,000. For more information call Ty at 828-577-9261 or tywalinski@yahoo.com

FIX 'R' UPPER – 2,500 sq. ft home. Walk to hospital. Great location between Highlands and Cashiers. Needs interior finishing...bring imagination. Motivated seller. Make offer. Call 828-200-9333.

UNUSUAL RIVERFRONT

PROPERTY. Two bedroom, 2 baths, 3-car garage, workshop, carport, concrete driveway, covered porch over looking Cullasaja River, gazebo, spiral stairway up

• CLASSIFIEDS •

to foyer entrance, washer and dryer, 2-door refrigerator with ice and water dispensers, smooth top range, dishwasher, plus efficiency apartment, much more. On almost level 1/2-acre on scenic Highlands Road only 5 miles from Franklin. Phone owner 828-369-2278 for appointment. \$395,000.

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

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

QUAINT – Newly remodeled farm-style home. 1 acre, 2 stories, 3 bed, 1 bath, hardwood & carpet floors. Close to Cashiers area golf courses and Lake Glenville. Quiet neighborhood. Asking \$180,000. Call Linda. Day: 828-743-2948. Evenings: 828-743-2654.

ADORABLE 3 BR/2 BA COTTAGE with wonderful mountain view. One mile from Main Street. Highlands. \$275,000. By Owner. For Appt. 828-526-1085.

ITEMS FOR SALE

HIGH COUNTRY QUEEN IRON BED with Serta mattress set. One year old, guest bed with no visitors. Iron work in warm copper tones with leaf design. Low footboard. Elegant and functional. \$700. Call 526-4340 after 8 a.m. and before 5 p.m., please.

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

KING BR SET (incl. mattress/box spring, frame, dresser, mirror, night stand, headboard) \$450; 4 Firestone tires (LT225/75R16) good tread \$125; Ethan Allen Hutch \$125; Queen mattress set (w/frame) \$175. Call: 526-2671.

18' INFLATABLE SWIMMING POOL. 4' deep. All attachments, Like New. \$100. Call Sandy at 369-6263 or Bob at SweetTreats, 526-9822.

TIME CLOCK, Acroprint Model 125, and time cards. See Bob at SweetTreats, 526-9822.

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

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

SPA (FLORES 6-3 SERIES) – From Rec Warehouse, 6-8 seats with 38 jets including a waterfall and 4 shoulder jets. The size is 93" x 93" x 41.25". Brand new, still in container. Original price \$6,500, will sell for \$5,000. Can be seen at Long Transfer Company. Call Mariette at 770-503-4433.

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

1958 ALBATROSE TRAILER WITH COVER AND PORCH. Maple interior. Good condition. \$1,000. Can be seen at Carolina Court. 526-5939.

JENNY LIND BABY BED – light stain, excellent condition, mattress, all linens, originally \$375 asking \$225. Call 526-0498.

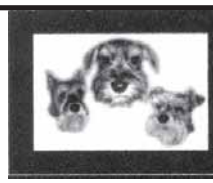
IKEA STORAGE LOFT QUEEN BED WITH DESK, BOOKSHELVES & DRAWERS – Solid Pine/Hardware & Instructions Included 63"w x 84"h x 86"l \$400, OBO. 828-524-1172.

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

MICROWAVE – GE spacesaver, 19"x12"x12", black. • See CLASSIFIEDS page 23

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Ethical Culture Fellowship to begin May 4

A new religious fellowship is being formed in Highlands, to be known as the Ethical Culture Fellowship. Ethical Culture is affiliated with the American Ethical Union. Proposed meetings will be 10:30-11:30 a.m. on Fridays, with lunch following the meeting. Part of the reason for selecting Friday is so people can participate in this fellowship while also being a member of another religious body.

The service will begin with the lighting of the candle to set this time apart for reflection and sharing. There are brief readings and music, followed by a sharing of our joys and sorrows. After sharing, the group will focus on the selected topic for discussion. The service will conclude with short readings and music.

Ethical Culture was organized about 140 years ago in America as a religion without God that focuses on the ethical problems of society. There are no creeds, no scriptures, only a common commitment to the worth and dignity of all living beings. Ethical Culture is inspired by the ideal to create a more humane society.

The organizing committee is composed of Elinor Artman (Artraven@aol.com), Carole Light (carolelight@hotmail.com), the late Alex Redmountain, and Frissy and Creighton Peden. Anyone is invited to participate in these services, which begin on May 4 at Frissy and Creighton's home at 295 Bonnie Drive.

Ethical Culture is a Humanist and Ethical movement inspired by the ideal that the supreme aim of life is to create a more humane society.

It stands for separation of church and state. It believes acting morally does not require belief in a god. It places faith in the demonstrated capacity of people to do wonderful things. It believes in the worth and dignity of all living beings.

It believes all individuals have: Inherent worth and dignity; The potential to grow and change, A responsibility to strive for ethical growth; A responsibility to treat others so as to help them realize their fullest potential; A responsibility to create a better world; A responsibility to help build an Ethical Culture community that welcomes and involves others

An Ethical Culture community believes that: All are part of something that transcends the individual experience; all have responsibilities to each other, to the society, and to the community at large; all are enriched through interconnectedness with others; all will find confirmation and validation of self and beliefs through interactions with others; all derive strength through relationships with others.

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School – 10 a.m., Worship – 11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.
Special Singing Schedule -- 7 p.m.
March 25: John Raby & Family
April 22: Morris Staneil
April 29: Promised Land with worship and lunch

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, Georgia
The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbeling, Pastor
Church: 706-746-2999
Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770
Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Office – 526-2320
Sunday: Holy Communion -- 11 a.m.
(Highlands Community Center on. U.S. 64 next to the ballfield in Highlands
Monday: Evening Bible Study at 6 p.m.
Tuesday: Women's weekly Bible study at 2 p.m.
Wednesday: Mens Bible study at 8 a.m.
at First Baptist Church
Pot Luck Supper last Sunday of each month.
All are Welcome!

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Everett Brewer
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Prayer – 6:30 p.m.
Evening Service – 1st & 3rd Sunday -- 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

(Evangelical Presbyterian Church)
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 Worship;
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study
Wednesdays: 5:15 p.m. Students' Dinner (free for kids in 8th grade and younger);
5:30 p.m. Supper; 5:45 p.m. - 7:15 pm Small Groups for kids Pre-K through 8th; 6:15 pm - 7:15 pm Adult Bible Study 6pm-7pm Choir Practice
• Small Groups are offered for all ages throughtout the week, see our website or call for more info.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Brian Sullivan – 526-2968
Monday, April 2: 5 p.m. - Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
Tuesday, April 3: 5 p.m. - Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
Wednesday, April 4: 5 p.m. - Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
Maundy Thursday, April 5: 7 p.m. - Holy Eucharist w/Feet Washing (Sanctuary)
Good Friday, April 6: 12 noon - Stations of the Cross; 1:30 p.m. - Good Friday Eucharist & Meditation (Chapel); 7 p.m.; "Seven Last Words" Choral Presentation
Saturday, April 7: 7 p.m. - Holy Eucharist w/Baptism & Meditation (Chapel)
Easter Sunday, April 8: 9 a.m. - Holy Eucharist; 9:45 a.m. - Choir Practice; 11 a.m. - Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
• Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.
FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN
Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor • 828-369-7977
Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m. (nursery provided)
Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.
Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by childrens

Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Junior & Senior Youth Group 6:30 p.m.;

Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.
Small groups available throughout the week.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153
Sun.: Worship – 8:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; School – 9:30 a.m.; Youth – 6:30 p.m.; Choir – 7:15
Wednesdays: Dinner – 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids – 6 p.m.; Prayer – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. J. Hunter Coleman, Pastor, 526-3175
Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun.School – 9:30 & 9:45.
Mondays: 8 a.m. – Mens Bible Discussion & Breakfast
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – Seekers
Wednesdays: Prayer – noon; Supper – 6 p.m.; Choir – 7
Sat: Adventistas del Septimo Dia – 10 a.m. & 5

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7
HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study
Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376
Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.;
5 p.m. Youth Group
Wed: noon – Mens Emmaus Reunion Group; 4:45 – Childrens choir and handbells; 5:30 – Supper; 6 – Adult Handbells; 6:15 – children, youth, & adults studies; 7:15 – Adult choir
(nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)

Thurs:12:30 – Womens Bible Study (nursery)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741
Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30
MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Choir – 6 p.m.

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprians Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871
Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.
For more information, call (706)-745-1842.

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Tien, Priest
Parish office, 526-2418
Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis
Sundays: School –10 a.m.; Worship –11 a.m. & 7
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.
SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.; Evening Worship – 6 p.m.

Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.
For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Wayne Price
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time) 526-9769
Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going

• Registration has begun for this summer's nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are being offered: "WOW! - a World of Wonder" (ages 4 to 6), "Amazing Animals" (ages 7 to 10), "NatureWorks" (ages 7 to 11), "Mountain Explorers" (ages 10 to 14), and "Jr. Ecologists" (ages 11 to 15). For details, please call 526-2623 or visit the Nature Center webpage at www.wcu.edu/hbs.

• NA open meeting every Saturday at 7:30 p.m. of the ACC Satellite Group at the Graves Community Church, 242 Hwy 107 N. in Cashiers. Call 888-764-0365 or go to the website: www.ncmana.org.

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

• Yoga Classes at the Rec Park. Mondays and Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m. Bring your mat. \$7 per person per class or \$50 for a monthly pass.

• Angie Jenkins on the piano at the Old Clayton Inn in Clayton on Fridays and Saturdays for dinner.

• Beginners Clogging class Tuesday, 6-7 p.m. at the Sapphire Valley Community Center. Come have lots of fun and exercise. Call 743-7663.

• At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Osteoporosis prevention exercise classes, a total body and muscle-toning workout exercise class, and Pilates classes. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.

• A Grief Support Group is held every Friday from 10-12 at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital for anyone who has lost a loved one through death or is dealing with a progressive illness with a loved one. If interested in attending, please contact Helen Moore (Hospice) 526-0727 or Martha Porter (Chaplain at HCH) at 787-1463.

• Every Tuesday Weight Watchers meets at the Highlands Civic Center. Weigh-in is at 5:30. The meeting starts at 6 p.m.

• Live music at Fressers in Helen's Barn with Cy Timmons 6 p.m. until.

• Live music at Cyprus Restaurant every Friday at 9:30 p.m.

• Children's classes ongoing at Bascom-Louise Gallery - cost is \$5 per student. Mondays: For Homeschoolers, classes are from 1-3 p.m. For 2nd to 5th graders, classes are from 3:15-4:15 p.m. Tuesdays: classes for pre-school are 11-11:30 a.m.; for kindergarten-1st grade, classes are 3:15-4:15 p.m. and for young adult independent study, classes are from 1-2:30 p.m.; Wednesdays classes are for middle school students from 3:15-4:15 p.m.

Every Tuesday

• Women's Bible Study, Beth Moore's study of Daniel at Community Bible Church Fellowship Hall. Call the church at 526-4685 to order your book.

• Open Studio Night Figure Drawing Informal instruction available for beginners. Bring your sketch pad or paint box for a leisurely session of figure drawing/painting. Cost is \$12, \$10 for "Friends" of the Gallery.

Every Third Wednesday

• As part of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin's "Life-Span Learning Curriculum," there are "Wednesday Night Chautauquas" which are media enhanced study sessions at the UU 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.

Friday, April 20

• Senior Luncheon at the Rec Park. It's free.

April 19

• The Rotary Club of Highlands is planning its Bingo debut for Thursday, 5:30-9 p.m. at the Highlands Community Center (formerly Highlands Conference Center). Coffee and soft drinks only will be served and participation will be on a donation per card per game basis. All proceeds to help fund Rotary's donation efforts.

Saturday, April 21

• At Cyrano's Book Shop on Main Street, a book signing with Warren Jacobs & Karen Shragg from 1-3 p.m.

• Benefit for Milton & Pat Green at the Highlands Rec Park 5-9 p.m. BBQ & hot dogs, raffle, silent auction & cake auction. Music by His Destiny, The White Sisters, Upward Bound-The Bowman Family, Oliver Rice & the Blue Ridge Mountain Band.

• Earth Day litter sweep begins at 9 a.m. Meet at Highlands Rec Park for an assignment. DOT provides needed gloves, reflective vests and trash bags. The National Forest Service and the Town of Highlands assist in picking up the litter bags from the roadside and disposing of them.

• Earth Day Fair on the green in Cashiers. Rain or shine. 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. Rain or Shine. Lots of fun events and booths for all ages.

• Highlands-Cashiers Hospital FREE Health Screenings. Rre-registration is required for all screenings. People can sign up by calling the hospital at 526-1434, or by completing the registration form on line at www.highlandscashiershospital.org

• Saturday from 2-4 p.m., is the Grand Opening and Dedication of the New Macon County Library, 819 Siler Road, Franklin, NC, followed by tours and refreshments. Directions: From the intersection of 441 business/bypass and Hwy 64, head south one block on 441 to the traffic light by the Nantahala Bank, across from Franklin Plaza shopping center. At the light turn left on Siler Road and continue for ¾ of a mile. Turn right at the entrance of Southwestern Community College and the new Macon County Library. The library is on the right. Follow the road to the timber frame library sign.

Sunday, April 22

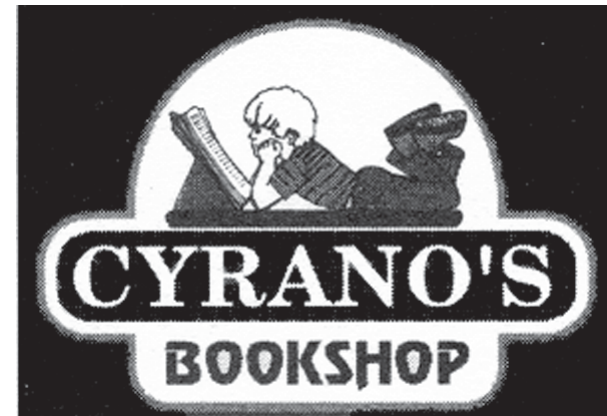
• The Reverend Paul F. Blankinship, assistant, All Saints Anglican Church, in Asheville, will preach 11 a.m. at the Highlands Community Center on U.S. 64 east at Christ Anglican Church.

• The Scaly Mountain Church of God will have a special minister to speak on Sunday at 10:45 a.m. The minister is Rev. Thurmond Jenkins, Western N.C. State Evangelism Director from Charlotte, N.C. The congregation and pastor, Al Sizemore invite everyone to attend. The church is located at 290 Buck Knob Road.

April 23

• U.S. Senator Elizabeth Dole today announced that a representative from her Western office will hold traveling office hours in Macon County on Monday, 2-3 p.m. at the Macon County Courthouse Law Library, 4th Floor. Constituents can use the office hours to hold individual meetings to discuss their concerns with federal agencies, case work, or issues pending before Congress. Appointments are not necessary, but can be scheduled by

• See UPCOMING EVENTS page 22



390 Main Street • 526-5488

Upcoming Book Signings

April 21

Warren Jacobs & Karen Shragg

"Tree Stories"

• 1-2:30 p.m.

Thomas Rain Crowe

"Zorro's Field-My Life in the Appalachian Woods"

* 2:30-4

May 17

5-7 p.m.

Marisha Pessl

"Special Topic in Calmth Physics"

Picked as one of the top 10 books in 2006 by

the *New Yorker* magazine

May 18

• 1-3 p.m.

Rob Neufield

"A Popular History of Western North Carolina - Mountains,

Heroes & Hootniggers

June 2

• 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Toni Meyers

"I Heard it on the Mountain, I Think I'll Tell It"

• 2-4 p.m.

James Costa

"The Other Insect Societies" & Brad Sanders

"Guide to Williman Bartram's Travels."

June 9

• 1-3 p.m.

Barbara Brown Taylor

"Leaving Church"

June 16

• 5-7 p.m.

Natalie Dupree

"Shrimp and Grits"

Ms. Dupree will hold a cooking class at Wolfgang's on Main earlier the

same day.

• 5-7 p.m.

Jack Bass

"Strom"

June 23

Bill Alexander

"Biltmore Nursery:

A Botanical Legacy"

June 30

• 1-3 p.m.

Don Brown

"Treason"

• 5-7 p.m.

Gayden Metcalfe

"Somebody is Going to Die if Lilly Beth Doesn't Catch that Bouquet"

July 7

• 1-3 p.m.

Charles Martin

"Chasing Fireflies"

July 14

• 1-3 p.m.

Elise Weston

"The Coastwatcher"

July 20

Midnight Party at Cyrano's

"Harry Potter and the Deathly

Hallows"

July 21

• 1-3 p.m.

Melanie Sue Bowles

"Horses of Proud Spirit"

August 18

• 1-3 p.m.

Ann Sharpteen

"I Walked the Line"

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

calling 828-698-3747

Tuesday, April 24

• Highlands Visitor Center is hosting an Open House, from 4-6 p.m. There will be complimentary hotdogs, chips, and soda. Stop in and see our new office located on Main Street across from Reeves Hardware. For more information call 526-2112.

• The Franklin Women's Connection "Ladies Night Out" dinner and program will be held on Tuesday, from 7-9 p.m. at the Community Center in Franklin. The special feature, "Southern Living Entertaining" will be presented by Barbara Vlass and speaker Frances Lynch from Knoxville, TN will share "When being good isn't good enough." Cost for dinner and program is \$10 inclusive. Call Georgann at 369-9117 or Susan at 369-7697 by noon Thursday, April 19 for reservations.

Thursday, April 26

• Swanson Vineyards Wine dinner at OEI's The Farm. Each dinner is \$169 per person, inclusive of tax and gratuity. Reception begins at 6 p.m. and guests will be seated for dinner at 6:30 p.m. Seating is limited, and advance reservations are required. Call 828-787-2604.

April 27

• Highlands United Methodist Church is sponsoring Kids' Night Out on Friday from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Children from nursery through fifth grade will have a fun evening themed "Lamps, Scrolls and Goat-skin Bottles: Bible Customs for Kids." Dinner is provided and the cost is \$5 per child. There will be significant adult supervision and children will be grouped by age as they learn about education, work, play, family life, food, homes, games, music, and dress in the times of the Bible. An RSVP would be helpful. Please call 526-3376 to sign up or for more information.

Sunday, April 29

• The Right Reverend Alex D. Dickson, First Baptist of West Tennessee, of Charleston, S.C., will preach at the Christ Anglican service at the Highlands Community Center at 11 a.m.

• WCU Faculty Showcase Concert at the First Presbyterian Church featuring the Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet.

May 4

• Ethical Culture Fellowship. Ethical Culture is affiliated with the American Ethical Union. Proposed meetings will be 10:30-11:30 a.m. on Fridays, with lunch following the meeting. Anyone is invited to participate in these services, which begin on May 4 at the home of Frissy and Creighton's home at 295 Bonnie Drive.

May 4 & 5

• Friday and Saturday, at 8 p.m., The Instant Theater presents The Highlands Community Players production of *Parallel Lives*. Call the Instant Theatre Box Office to reserve tickets at 342-9197.

May 5

• Healthy Carolinians of Macon County has scheduled their fourth annual golf tournament on Saturday at Mill Creek County Club in Franklin, NC. Shotgun Start is 9 a.m. Registration Fee to play in the tournament costs \$75 per player, or \$150 for a team. Registration includes green fee, cart fee, and lunch buffet. Proceeds from the tournament will support Healthy Carolinians of Macon County activities. The golf format will be captain's choice, scramble. Prizes will be awarded for closest to the pin and longest drive. A cash prize of \$5000 will be

Encore performance of 'Parallel Lives' May 4 & 5



Bretha Stroud and Jenny King in *Las Hermanas*.

Brought Back by Popular Demand! Call Now to reserve your seats.

The Instant Theater presents the The Highlands Community Players production of *'Parallel Lives,'* by Kathy Najimy and Mo Gaffney, directed by Mary Adair Leslie

Beginning in 1991 HBO presented "The Kathy and Mo Show" based on the successful off-Broadway shows by the same name. Written and performed by Kathy Najimy and Mo Gaffney, *Parallel Lives*, while taking the time to celebrate the joys of relationships, never takes itself too seriously.

Originally performed by these two talented actors, Highlands Community Players takes advantage of its bank of talent and features Katie Cochran, Bonnie Earman, Jenny King, Mary Adair Leslie, Lee Lyons, Nancy Reeder, Jennifer Royce, Bretha Stroud, Ronnie Spilton, and Sandie Trevathan.

Tackling such subjects as religion, death, diversity and dating the play is for adult audiences as it contain mature language and adult content.

Call the Instant Theatre Box Office to reserve your tickets at 342-9197. Performances begin at 8 p.m.

given for a hole-in-one on hole #6. Any person or organization wanting to sponsor the golf tournament, or would like to register a team can call Rhonda Blanton at 828-349-2425.

May 7-11

• The PTO of Highlands School is sponsoring Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week at the Highlands School, May 7-11. They encourage students, parents, and the community to let the faculty, staff and administration of Highlands School know how much they are needed and appreciated!

Thur., May 10 thru Sun., May 13

• HCP's 'Enchanted April,' is at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. Opening Night Reception, Thursday night is being catered by Wolfgang's On Main. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees begin at 2:30

p.m. Call: 526-8084 for reservations. Enchanted April is sponsored in part by "The Galleries," Summit One Gallery and Drake's Diamond Gallery. The box office opens for season subscribers on May 3 and for the public on May 5.

Fri., May 17 thru Sun., May 20.

• HCP's 'Enchanted April' is at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees begin at 2:30 p.m. Call: 526-8084 for reservations. Enchanted April is sponsored in part by "The Galleries," Summit One Gallery and Drake's Diamond Gallery. The box office opens for season subscribers on May 3 and for the public on May 5.

Saturday, May 19

• Highlands-Cashiers Hospital FREE Health Screenings. Re-registration is required for all screen-

ings. People can sign up by calling the hospital at 526-1434, or by completing the registration form on line at www.highlandscashiershospital.org

Thursday, May, 24

• Wine Tasting 6-8 p.m. at the Bascom-Louise Gallery.

Saturday, May 26

• Groundbreaking of Fine Arts Center 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Barbeque, Music and Fun

• Village Square Art and Craft Show 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Food available.

• The Mountain Garden Club plant sale will be held 9 a.m.-1 p.m., May 26, at the baseball park on the corner of Highway 64 East (North 4th Street) and Hickory Street in Highlands.

Thursday, June 28

• Lambert Bridge Vineyards Wine dinner at OEI's The Farm. Each dinner is \$169 per person, inclusive of tax and gratuity. Reception begins at 6 p.m. and guests will be seated for dinner at 6:30 p.m. Seating is limited, and advance reservations are required. Call 828-787-2604.

Monday-Friday, July 9-13

• 4th Annual Challenger Soccer camp this summer. Half-day camps available for all ages from 3-16 and full-day camps for children 10 and older. For more information on registration or camp you may call Christy Nix Weller at 526-9931 or you may also contact Tony Esterwood at 524-1928. Register for camp at www.challengersports.com, 45 days prior to camp to receive a free challenger soccer jersey!

Thursday, July 12

• Fine Art Center Patron Party

Friday & Saturday, July 13-14

• Garden Festival for Fine Art Center

Ruby Cinemas

Playing April 20-26

AMAZING GRACE rated PG

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

DISTURBIA rated PG-13

Fri: (4:20), 7:10, 9:20
Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:20), 7:10, 9:20
Mon – Thurs: (4:20), 7:10

BLADES OF GLORY rated PG-13

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

MEET THE ROBINSONS rated G

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

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of April 11-18. Only the names of persons arrested or public officials have been used.

April 11

- At 12:35 p.m., Bank of America reported a patron tried to cash a check with a fraudulent ID..

April 13

- At 4:20 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on N.C. 106.

April 17

- At 12:45 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.
- At 12:55 p.m. officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Main and N. 4th streets.
- At 12:55 p.m., a motorist was cited for traveling at an unsafe speed at Main and N. 4th streets.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the weeks of April 4-18.

April 4

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

Gap Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

April 6

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Sherwood Forest. There was no transport.
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Jasmine Lane. The victim was transported to the hospital.

April 8

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Satulah Road. There was no transport.
- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers to fight a brush fire.

April 13

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on N. 5th Street. The victim was transported to the hospital.

April 14

- The dept. responded to a wreck on N.C. 28 south. There were minor injuries.

April 15

- The dept. responded to a call of a fire at Gates Nursery where a tarp was on fire.
- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers. The call was cancelled en route.
- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers and stood by while that department responded to a brush fire..

April 16

- The dept. responded to a call of a tree on fire on Carolina Way.
- The dept. responded to the call of a brush fire on Panther Mountain. Cullasaja Fire Dept. was already on scene.
- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers. The call was cancelled en route.
- The dept. responded to a call of a tree on a house on Laurelwood Drive.

April 17

- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Dog Mountain Road. It was set off by a power surge.
- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers. The call was cancelled en route.

• CLASSIFIEDS •

\$50. 526-5834

ENGLISH & AMERICAN ANTIQUES – 18th & 20th Century. Private Estate Sale by Appointment only. Call 828-452-4888.

HEAVY BRASS ELECTRIC HANGING FIXTURE – Six green, glass panels, 4 feet of matching chain. 22-inch diameter. \$975. Call 526-1773.

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

PETS FOR SALE

MINIATURE DACHSHUND – 9-month old male, red-short-haired, good with kids, CKC registered. \$250, OBO. Call 828-526-2787 or 828-421-0730.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

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

2001 JAGUAR S-TYPE 4.0 – Excellent condition. 98K miles. Still under warranty. \$15,000. Call 828-243-6447.

ANTIQUE 1926 MODEL T FORD TOURING CAR – Fully restored. Needs a new starter. Selling for health reasons. \$15,000 but will discount cost of starter and ignition work. Great car and lots of fun. Call Horace Duncan at 526-3760.

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

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

SERVICES

PERSONAL COMPANION/CAREGIVER Whatever your needs may be we can help. References available (828)421-5940,(828)399-1749

CHAMBERS LAND MANAGEMENT SERVICES – Environmental Restoration, Stewardship Planning, Species Inventory, Tree Health, Aesthetics, Forestry. Call Sam Chambers at 828-421-6448. www.chambers-lms.com 5/8

PERSONAL CARETAKER – Run errands, clean house, buy groceries, Transport to appointments. References available. Call Cheryl. 828-421-6685.

FIVE STAR CLEANING & MAINTENANCE – Light and detail cleaning, concierge services, openings and closings, grocery shopping, personal shopping, personal chef and table service, house repairs, improvements: lighting, plumbing, fixtures, tile, drywall repairs and more. Call 828-332-7201.

D.P. PAINTING & PRESSURE WASHING – Interior and exterior painting. Quality Work. References. In business since 1984. Dennis Perkins. 526-3542 or 371-2277.

YARD WORK & PRESSURE WASHING – Yard and property maintenance. Pressure Washing and odd jobs. Call Bruce at 828-369-3168 or 828 371-2766. 8/18

H & D HOUSE CLEANERS – We're the team for minor cleans. Dishes, bed, floors, & baths. Give us a call 'cause we are the Best!' 706-982-1994 or 706-782-0376

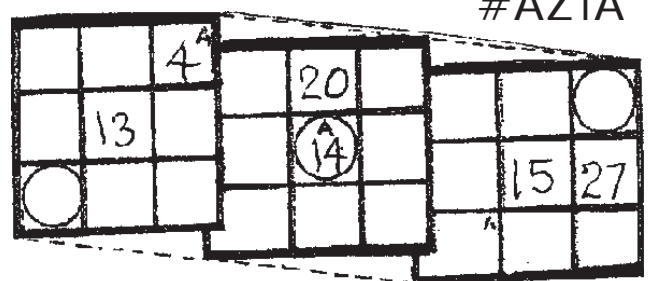
SCOTTS CONSTRUCTION 'ME FIX IT' – Decks, roofs, pressure washing, painting, lawn service, small electrical, floors, carpet cleaning, house cleaning! No job too small. 30 yrs. exp. Call David at 828-369-5886 or 828-347-5051.

C&C CONTRACTING – WE GET IT DONE – SMALL OR LARGE – Remodeling, decks, doors, windows or the whole house! Call Art Doughty at 828-508-1360 Workmen's Comp, General Liability, References

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

PseudoCube®

#AZ1A



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.

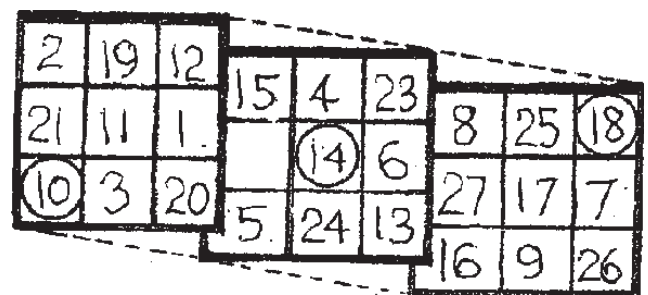
THE CHALLENGE:

Start with the three center numbers for each layer and two other numbers. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other 22 numbers belong. Good Luck!

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

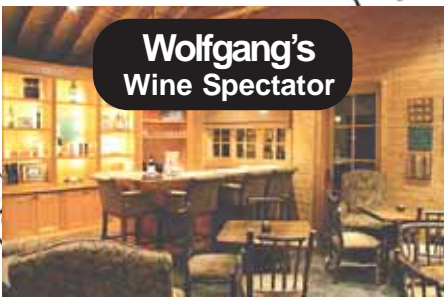
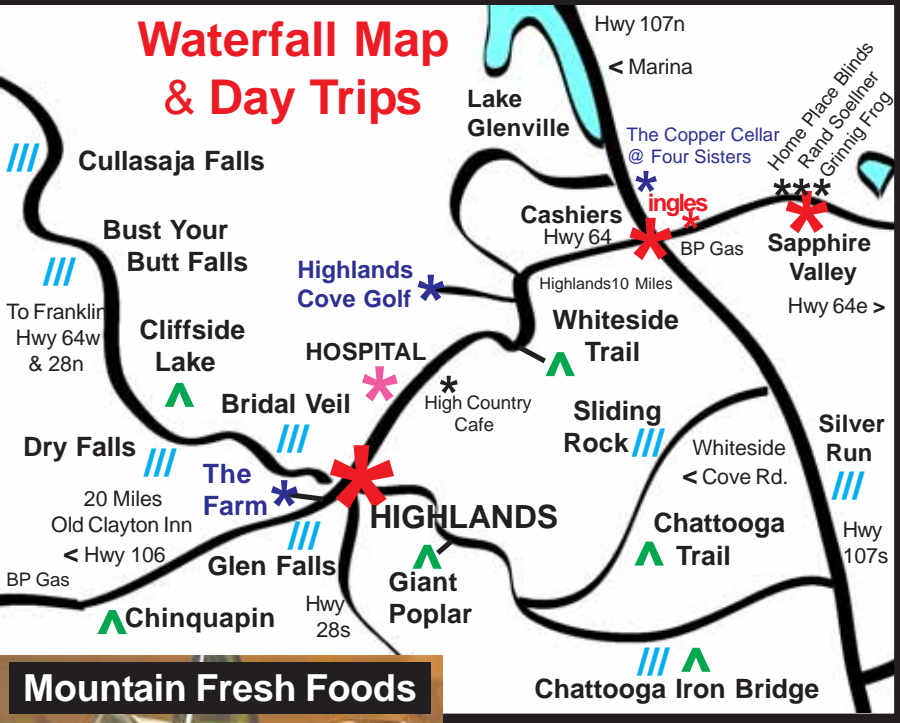
Email: pseudocube8@aol.com

Solution to DN2A in the April 12 paper



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Cyprus Taylor Barns
Dillard Rd Village
Retail Space Avail.
Call: 770-622-3050

The Farm & Highlands C.C.
1 Mile Hwy. 106
Summer House & Tin Roof
2 Miles Hwy. 106

CAFE 460
Between Paoletti's & Wolfgang's
In The Drug Store

Bryson's Foods
Wine Spectator
Gourmet Selection

Manley's Auto Service & Towing
J&J Lawn & Landscaping Service
<<< 1 Mile Hwy. 28s

Highlands Map

www.HighlandsInfo.com

