

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 5, Number 17

PDF Version – www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, April 26, 2007

On-going

• Registration now for this summer's nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Call 526-2623.

• Step Aerobics at the Rec Park, 4-5 p.m., Mon., Wed., Thurs., \$5 per class.

• 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.

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

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

Every Monday

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

Every Tuesday

• For eight weeks at 4:30 p.m. in the First Presbyterian Church Chapel "Companions in Christ." Call 526-3175.

• Women's Bible Study, Beth Moore's study of Daniel at Community Bible Church Fellowship Hall. Call 526-4685.

Every Wednesday

• Wednesday Noon Prayers at First Presbyterian Church.

Thursday, April 26

• Swanson Vineyards Wine dinner at OEI's The Farm. Reception begins at 6 p.m. and guests will be seated for dinner at 6:30 p.m. Seating is limited, reservations are required. Call 828-787-2604.

Friday, April 27

• Highlands United Methodist Church is sponsoring Kids' Night Out on Friday from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Call 526-3376 to sign up or for more information.

• Senior Citizen Luncheon at the Rec Park at noon. Donations only. Last luncheon until November. Call 526-3556.

Saturday, April 28

• Highlands School Junior-Senior Prom is at PAC. Crowning is a 11 p.m.

• Clear Creek Baptist Church presents dinner and singing starting at 5 p.m. Donations will be taken for the fellowship hall.

Sunday, April 29

• The Right Reverend Alex D. Dickson, retired Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee, 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 at 4 p.m.

Wednesday, May 2

• The Right Reverend Alex D. Dickson, retired Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee, will speak on the future of Anglicanism in North America at 5 p.m. at Christ Anglican Church at its new location in the Highlands Community Center adjacent to the baseball field. Visitors and friends are welcome!

Thursday, May 3

• Kindergarden Inscripciones Abiertas en Highlands School ano escolar 2007-08, a las 9 a.m. Orientacion es necesaria para los padres acerca de la escuela y medio de transporte. Kindergarten registration for 2007-08 at Highlands School is at 9 a.m.

PB votes 'no' to ETJ zoning

The main subject discussed at the April 23 Planning Board meeting was the ramifications of extra-territorial jurisdiction in Horse Cove and Clear Creek.

Chairman Griffin Bell opened the floor to citizens in the audience who were both for and

against ETJ in those areas. Each board member also expressed his views on the matter.

In the end, the board voted 5-2 to recommend to the Town Board that no zoning be established in the ETJ areas of Horse Cove and Clear Creek at this time.

Bell and Ginger Slaughter voted against the motion.

"ETJ in Horse Cove and Clear Creek never made much sense to me for the same reasons it does make sense elsewhere," said member Clem Patton who made the

• See VOTES page 14



Photo by Kim Lewicki

New planters to line Main St. 3rd to 5th

With parking on Main Street a premium, merchants were alarmed when town workers began replacing the old planters with a larger revised version last Friday.

Town Engineer Lamar Nix says the planters are configured differently than before and will eventually house a fuller tree, garbage cans and perhaps a bench. Taking the garbage cans off the sidewalk will make pedestrian passage easier.

Though no parking spaces

will be lost on Main Street, 17 spaces will be shorter and obviously not the best spot for a Ford 150 pick-up truck. They mimic the spots on Pine Street and will likely be the place for motorcycles and small compacts.

Japanese zelkovas will be planted in the planters. They grow 50-80 feet high and have 2- to 5-inch leaves that turn yellow, orange-brown, and reddish-purple in the fall. It's a good shade tree, with easy fall clean-up, tolerant of heat, drought,

wind, urban conditions and is considered a good street tree.

The town has budgeted \$85,000 for the new Main Street streetscape. It will take two weeks for the project to be completed because it takes three separate cement pours per planter.

Merchants questioned said they were initially worried about a loss of parking and some consider shorter spaces a loss, but most are glad the town is doing the work in April and not further into the season.

County prepares for bond referendum

County commissioners have taken the first step in preparation for a possible bond referendum on the November ballot.

At the April 24 Macon County Commission continuation meeting, a resolution declaring the county's intent to reimburse itself

from the proceeds of one or more tax exempt financings for expenditures made in connection with the 2007 county facility bond referendum was passed unanimously.

The maximum principal amount of the financings is esti-

mated at \$70 million. "This represents the maximum figure the bond can be but it can be less," said County Attorney Lesley Mosley.

At its January work session, the commission agreed a bond ref-

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ETJ reps subject of closed session

In the April 19 issue of Highlands' Newspaper, the article "ETJ areas challenged again" discussed the subject of a letter in the April 18 Town Board agenda packet from Planning Board member and Horse Cove resident Mitch Gurganus. It questioned the legality of the town extending ETJ into Horse Cove and Clear Creek.

The board went into closed session "to consult with the town attorney on the county ETJ litigation."

Thursday morning, Highlands' Newspaper learned that the ETJ subject discussed in closed session wasn't about the ETJ subject in the packet but about litigation with the county concerning representation on the Planning and Zoning boards. Highlands' Newspaper wrongly assumed it was about the subject in hand.

Town Administrator Richard Betz said it was an easy mistake to make, but the letter in the packet was for information only and its subject is on the agenda for the May 2 Town Board meeting.

Once back in open session, the board verified the discussion about ongoing litigation between the town and the county concerning the means of determining the number of ETJ representatives on town boards and their duties. It also discussed the legal ramifications.

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

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From my perspective



Mayor Don Mullen

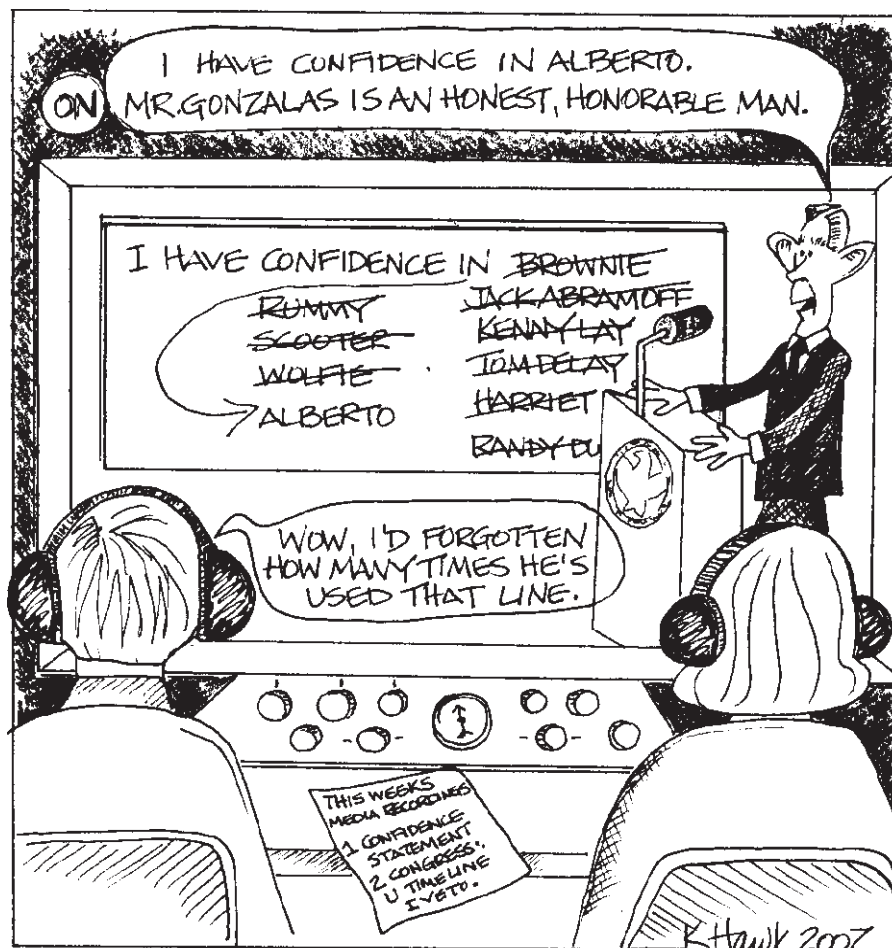
Difficult times sometimes bring out the best in people. Such was the case during and following the recent windstorm which ripped through our part of the country last Sunday and Monday a week ago. Trees and limbs were down everywhere but our town employees rose to the occasion, working many overtime hours to bring the utilities back to reasonable order and cleaning up the broken limbs and fallen trees.

Our public works department head Lamar Nix along with his crew are to be commended for the great work they did during this difficult time. We are indeed blessed in Highlands for the dedicated workers we have. The main problem, however, was not in Highlands but in the main Duke Power trunk outside our county which supplies us with electricity. The Duke crew also did a fine job in taking care of this in rapid order.

The Affordable Housing task force is making progress in their review of this difficult situation on the Highlands plateau. The recent survey conducted by them assessing the needs of the community for more affordable housing gave us an indication of how deep the problem is. Only a third of those who answered the questions on the survey live in Highlands. Some are happy with that situation for various reasons given but fully 40% expressed interest in living closer to their workplace if lower priced housing were available. The task force will continue looking at various avenues of help, attending educational meetings and reviewing the results of similar efforts in other municipalities.

Those individuals chosen to work on this project are dedicated to the task and are putting forth an outstanding effort to try to understand the situation and make recommendations to the Town of ways to solve the problems. Everyone already recognizes one of the main objections for many to living in Highlands is not only

•See MULLEN page 15



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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Short memories

Dear Editor,

Apparently Commissioners Davis and Leatherman have short memories. Since we are required to have revaluations every four years, the last revaluation took place in 2003. Because there was a jump in property values in 2003 the millage rate was dropped from 44 mills to 37 mills so as to make the amount collected in the following year "revenue neutral."

So the first year of the new rate at 37 mills was 2004. Interestingly, the property taxes raised in 2004 increased from \$16,907,000 in 2003 to \$19,838,000 in 2004. That was an increase of \$2,931,000. That amount ended up in the county's bank account where it resides today.

In the minutes of the Commission meeting of May 1997, Commissioner Davis was quoted as saying "if there was a surplus of funds it should be in the taxpayers' savings account, not the government's (county)." Since there are substantial funds in the county's bank account, the commissioners could miss the true "revenue neutral" amount by truckloads and not miss the cash.

This is why several people in the community decided to calculate the "revenue neutral" rate for the commissioners so we would not end up in the same place as we did in the last revaluation. Let us hope they follow the suggestions from the community and adopt no more than a 25-cent millage rate.

Bob Lavery
Franklin

Senseless violence is part of American history

Dear Editor,

Dr. Henry Salzarulo's claim that the shootings at Virginia Tech was the "single worst incident of its kind in American history" which ran in last week's issue of Highlands' Newspaper under the heading "Another View" is just plain wrong. Not that it wasn't bad enough, but apparently the good Dr. has forgotten Waco and the government's victims there. Almost three times as many innocent people were killed at Waco.

The government through its agents, kill people on a fairly regular basis, many of them innocent people. Yet, people like Dr. Salzarulo seem to believe that if even more people were disarmed things would be better.

•See LETTERS page 15

Recent grad inducted into honor society



Megan Lewicki, Highlands School graduate, class of 2006 was inducted into the Appalachian State University chapter of Phi Eta Sigma, Friday, April 20, for earning placement on the Chancellor's List for her freshman semester with a 4.0 average. Phi Eta Sigma is a national honor society with chapters in numerous colleges and universities across the nation.

• THANKS •

Juniors and seniors prepare for prom

As the 2006-2007 school year rapidly comes to a close, the juniors and seniors are anxiously anticipating the 2007 Prom on April 28. The Junior-Senior Prom is one of the highlights of the year. It is an event which started many years ago with fundraisers, active parent involvement and support from faculty and staff at Highlands School. The junior class and sponsors are planning an exciting evening. The Class of 2008 and its sponsors would like to extend a most heartfelt "Thank You" to the Highlands community for its outpouring of support, assistance, and generosity in helping us facilitate our plans for the prom. We would like to specifically thank The Church of the Incarnation Episcopal Church, The Mountain, Carpe Diem Farms, The Rotary Club, Highlands Country Club, The Cove, and The PAC Center for offering assistance and use of their facilities. If we have omitted anyone who has offered assistance, please forgive our oversight and our thanks go out to everyone.

The Junior Class has decided to have the Prom in the newly renovated PAC center. The atmosphere of "A Night on the Town" will be created by the juniors and sponsors on April 27th and 28th. The evening will begin with valet parking from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Pictures will be taken in the lobby. Students will then move to the dance floor, where they will be able to dance until midnight to the music orchestrated by Highlands' own professional DJ, Vas Sanchez who now lives in Atlanta. Decadent desserts will be served until 10 p.m. The crowning of the 2007 King and Queen will take place at 11 p.m.

Our gratitude goes to Elaine Whitehurst and the others at the PAC Center for their willingness to work with the Junior Class. Again, we would like to thank the community for its ongoing support of Highlands School and its activities. We are truly blessed to be part of a school in such a caring community.

The Juniors and Sponsors of the Class of 2008

Thank you, The Girls' Clubhouse

From the staff at the Recreation Park, thanks so much for your help. The Easter Egg Hunt was a huge success because of your participation.

All of us at the Rec Park

•See THANKS page 11

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Newly remodeled, open and airy home on the 4th tee at Highlands Falls Country Club features bright kitchen with skylight, light cabinets & countertops, dining room with wet bar, 2 bedrooms & baths upstairs, family room, bed & bath downstairs, beautiful laurel railings on the stairs, 1 car garage and lots of storage. Offered at \$695,000



New home in Highgate with vaulted great room and stone fireplace, upscale kitchen with wine bar and antique work island. Travertine tile throughout all the baths, granite surfaces among the kitchen and baths. 3 bedrooms 3 1/2 baths and a 2 car garage and a great mountain view. Old world style with all the conveniences of new construction. Offered at \$1,195,000



Garnet Ridge is comprised of 8 estate sized out parcel lots located within the gated community of Wildcat Ridge Estates. Beautiful mountain views and gentle terrain. Roads are paved and all utilities are underground. Only 5 remain! Starting at \$195,000



Located in prestigious Wildcat Cliff Country Club, this great family home with 4 BR and 4 BA. An open floor plan, stone fireplace, pine floors and vaulted ceilings the light and airy great room is large enough for wonderful family gatherings. Huge covered porches on both levels offers view of the lake. \$895,000



This beautifully updated VZ Top condo has been completely redone with fresh paint, updated lighting, and all new flooring. The kitchen features freshly painted cabinetry, new appliances, granite counter tops, and new bead board ceiling with recessed lighting. 3 BR and 2 BA plus spectacular mountain views. \$399,000



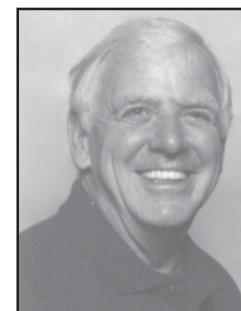
Spectacular grounds 3 BR, 3 BA all on one level. Granite kitchen and baths, hardwood floors, outdoor fireplace finished in native stone. Plus a two car garage, 2 acres and bordered on each side by streams. Amazing landscaping with a waterfall, stone terrace, golf course frontage, bridges and trails canopied by evergreens and rhododendrons. Offered \$1,195,000



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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

“Ho, ho, ho!”



Fred Wooldridge

**Feedback
is encouraged!
email:**

askfredanything@aol.com

Wait, this is not funny! Will Santa be allowed to publicly say “Ho, Ho, Ho” in December now that Don Imus has changed the rules? Santa could say “He, He, He” but that is obviously discriminatory against women. Anyway, some minority group will come along and turn the word “he” into something dirty or racist before the year is out. Personally, I like “Har, Har, Har.”

Wait, this is not funny either. Things used to be simple. You could say “Merry Christmas” to anyone and they would appreciate the greeting. You could tell another man you loved him without being homosexual if that was how you felt and not get a strange look. You were allowed to have a roommate of the same sex without all the whispers and being gay meant you were happy. As a matter of fact, in my time, having a roommate of the opposite sex drew the whispers. Finally, my “partner” was the guy with bad breath sitting next to me in a squad car. Poof....all gone. How sad! Is the end near?

These are complicated times we live in. The good ole United States of America is a land that prides itself on freedom of speech, but how far are we willing to go to say it's free? We have these freedoms as long as it passes the discriminatory test of being politically correct. If you are caught by the word police uttering the wrong things, you could be sued, fired or ostracized. I once told a store clerk, “Have a nice day.” She responded, “Don't tell me what to do!”

It's only a matter of time before White and Yellow cabs will be considered discriminating against the other colored races. MasterCard is extremely discriminatory as it is obviously a throwback from our days of slavery when the master of the plantation owned black humans and kept their names on a card, thus the word MasterCard. Why don't they sue MasterCard for constantly reminding them of their terrible origin? You just know they would win because it's all gotten wacky.

Mind you, there's nothing wrong with the word police or censorship. They've been around as long as I have been alive. I was watching TV before the Flintstones crawled into bed together. They were the first couple to be seen on television in bed together. Before that,

you had to use your imagination, God forbid. In the old days, a romantic scene would fade to a moonlit night of an ocean shore with beautiful waves. That meant they were having sex. Now it's right in your face on the big screen.

My problem with the word police is they discriminate against the majority. If you disagree, stop reading, find a gangster rap radio station in Atlanta and just listen. I won't tell you the one to listen to because that would discriminate

against the others. If you're like me, you'll pick up on every fifth word, but that will be enough for you to recognize the filth, the discrimination and the racism.

Many preschool children, mostly black, now think a legitimate nickname for a woman is “ho.” Furthermore, gangster rap lyrics openly promote guns, violence, prostitution, sex and anything else your mama told you was bad as a child. What a terrible black eye for America. Oops, am I allowed to say black eye or is that a racist statement?

While an ever growing rap world is teaching its own brand of life to its children, young Muslim children are taught why Americans are the true infidels talked about by the great prophet, Mohammad. Americans must be destroyed because they carry guns and use them to promote violence and pornography. Their leaders are all corrupt. They conquer our lands and force their form of rule on everyone. Those who resist are killed.

In the eyes of some Muslim children, America is an immoral land where sex is open and anything goes; where its people promote homosexuality and without reason, abort their children if they choose; a land where crime is rampant. They drink alcohol and disrespect God. Their children kill each other in the schools because they are immoral.

Muslim children are shown examples of American life to prove the point. By the time they are 10, they can't wait to strap a bomb around their waist and do their part to please Allah. This is how they justify killing men, women and children who are not, in their eyes, innocent but infidels. They are cleansing the world of sin. I'm concerned, how about you?

• ANOTHER VIEW •

Lessons not learned

A comment from a reader's e-mail gave me a thought. For one responsible for a weekly column, ideas are precious. A thought can be defined as a nugget, which when adequately nourished and extensively massaged, becomes a column. Bob mentioned French losses in Algeria and Viet Nam following World War II. I thought about the disintegration of the colonial system. Thanks, Bob.



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

because their only experience with government was that of domination and often brutal oppression at the hands of colonial masters. After independence was achieved, strong men grabbed power and held office for life or until a stronger man assassinated them. What a legacy the West left. I think that without European domination of primitive and some rather advanced cultures, those cultures might have

gradually developed and blended the best of western ideals with their own, rather than simply adopting the worst of western greed.

The most important thought about colonialism is that it is dead. It is clear that populations will no longer tolerate foreign domination. The excesses of those newly freed populations against former masters have been horrific, but no worse than the crimes of the former rulers against the native populations.

With no experience with self rule, with

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It was our own country that first defeated a colonial power and introduced ideas of participatory democracy and independence in a world ruled by kings. The colonial system would continue to grow and prosper for nearly 200 years, but we took the first shot. As we grew, we became something of a colonial power, ourselves. It was not until after WWII that the system began to fall apart. Once decay began, it was completed in a few decades. Former colonies, particularly those in Africa have struggled with self rule, largely, I suspect

The Girls Clubhouse to the rescue!



Members of The Girls Clubhouse helped ready the Performing Arts Center for the Highlands School Junior-Senior Prom set for Saturday, April 28. The girls helped rid the place of construction dust so new wood floors could be installed in time for the dance.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

... BOND continued from page 1

erendum may be necessary to pay for county facility expansions and renovations over the next several years.

"The \$70 million is based on the figures and general information coming in from various departments, committees and boards," said County Manager Sam Greenwood. He said the resolution allows the county to recover expenses from bond proceeds "if the bond goes that far," he said.

If the bond doesn't pass, then the coun-

ty couldn't recover any money it spent in anticipation of the bond's passage. "Those costs would be gone and those expenditures wouldn't be recoverable," he said.

The \$70 million is earmarked for expenditures in connection with elementary school new construction, additions and renovations to existing schools, a county recreational complex, an addition to the jail, the emergency services facility and a senior services center.



Peregrine Opens May 10



AFTERWARD SWING BY PEREGRINE

One of the nicest things about Highlands Cove is that you don't have to live here to enjoy all that goes with it. Our many amenities are open to the public, pay as you use. There are 18 holes of spectacular golf where the views are nothing short of inspiring. A clubhouse with a fully stocked golf pro shop. A practice facility that rivals any in the area. And a PGA professional staff.



Discriminating diners will take delight in the carefully crafted cuisine that flows from Peregrine at the Cove. Located in the clubhouse, the atmosphere is relaxed and casually

elegant. The menu is classic continental American and entirely handmade. Our chefs are passionate about serving up an excellent dining experience. And the full-service bar will quench any thirst.

Great golf. Fabulous food. Excellent service. Enjoy Highlands Cove today. We're located six miles east of Highlands on Highway 64. The course is open daily. Call 828-526-4185 for a tee time. Peregrine dining hours are seasonal. Call 828-787-2465 for our dining schedule, reservations or information on special events.





Why not a 25 mil limit?



During the recent April 9th Commission meeting, Commissioner McClellan wisely moved to establish a 25 mil limit on Property Taxes for fiscal year 2007-08. After what a local newspaper described as a “confusing debate on the subject,” the Commission scuttled the idea, stating that they had already agreed that the County should have a revenue neutral tax rate.

The “confusing” part of the debate seemed to center around Commissioner Davis stating “how do we know what we want to adopt as the revenue millage rate when we don’t know what our expenses will be?” It was pointed out that “revenue neutral” has nothing to do with expenses. It has to do with the amount of revenue raised in the budget year compared to the previous year. Since this budget year involves the revaluation of property, the concern is not dropping the rate enough, thus causing a TAX INCREASE.

Evidently Davis is concerned with a balanced budget, not revenue neutrality. Yes, the County is obligated to pass a balanced budget. Obviously, this has to do with matching revenue with expenses. What was evidently forgotten by the Commissioners was the COUNTY’S BANK ACCOUNT, wherein lies \$25,000,000 of your money. If they feel they need to spend more than 25 mils would provide, they can appropriate the rest from their huge surplus.

Curiously, Commissioner Davis should be the most familiar with the concept of determining the tax rate in advance since the Commission did so in his first term.

Call the Commissioners and let them know that a property tax rate greater than 25 mils would constitute a TAX INCREASE and is unacceptable. You can find their telephone numbers at www.maconnc.org click on “Macon County Commissioners.” If you are concerned about your next year’s tax bill, plan on attending the next Commission meeting on Monday, May 14th at 6:00 PM at the Courthouse and take a stand for a fiscally responsible budget.

This information is brought to you by ***FreedomWorks***
and the Macon County Taxpayers Association

• THE CONSERVATIVE POV •

Brave new world...

Will all those who know what SPP stands for please raise your hand? No, it's not a fuel additive (that's STP). It's not San Pedro Pacifica (I just made that up). It stands for Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America, also known as the North American Union. It is a subject so big that it's hard to get your mind around it. So, we'll take it in parts.



Don Swanson
Feedback is encouraged. Email swandonson@dnnet.net

Do you remember the photos you used to see with Bill Clinton and Mexico's Vicente Fox looking like best buddies at a time when Fox appeared to me to be a sleaze ball of the first order? Why, I asked? No answer was forthcoming. Then comes George Bush, obviously ignoring the will of the people by promoting amnesty for illegal aliens and stalling the US/Mexico border fence/wall. What's up with that?

Out from under the rocks emerges the TTC, the Trans Texas Corridor. I suppose that if you lived in Texas, you may have heard of it. We don't and I hadn't, until very recently, but that doesn't mean we won't be affected. The Trans Texas Corridor is a mega-transportation system, multi-auto traffic lanes in both directions, likewise several truck lanes and rail lines on both sides. In total, it will occupy a swath 1/4 mile wide.

One would assume that this transportation colossus would run possibly from Dallas/Ft. Worth to Houston, connecting large population centers. However, it starts at Laredo, on the Mexican border and runs to the Oklahoma border near Gainesville, TX. You see, the TTC is simply one leg of a huge system called the NAFTA Super Corridor, running from port cities on the western coast of Mexico to Winnipeg and other inland ports north of the Canadian border.

The plans for this grand-scale enterprise are being drawn up by a Spanish firm which will operate and collect tolls for at least 50 years. The same Chinese company that controls both ends of the Panama Canal will operate the mega-ports in Mexico, and Mexico will operate a customs terminal in Kansas City. The promoters of the project say that local and regional U.S. firms will be used as contractors.

Who will be the ultimate winners once this thing is in operation? Obviously, those contracted to plan, construct and operate the project. Chinese exporters will bypass U.S. port costs and tie-ups and somebody won't be

paying the Stevedore/Longshoreman's Unions outrageous charges nor will the Teamsters participate in the spoils since the ships will be offloaded in Mexico and trucked from there.

The assumption is that the reduced costs of imports will be passed along to consumers, in which case they will benefit. A significant number of new jobs will be created in order to build

the road and rail systems. Perhaps the Mexican sector of port and ground construction and operation will create enough jobs to keep the otherwise illegal immigrants at home. That might actually draw some back to their homeland. This would benefit everyone involved on both sides of the border.

Sounds wonderful, doesn't it?

Not so much for the union jobs which will be lost to Mexico. Sounds familiar, doesn't it? How about the landowners whose property will be bisected by the roadway? Consider the farmer or rancher whose land happens to lie in its path.

Because there will understandably be limited access, they will have to drive many miles to get to the other side of their property, and likewise many miles to get to town which used to be a few minutes away.

How about the business ventures which now line the existing roadways which the corridor will replace? Restaurants, motels, service stations, they'll all go away along with the other ventures currently serving the driving public. For those of us who remember Route 66, this was at one time the major east-west highway connecting the Midwest with the West Coast. It inspired a popular song many years ago. For all intents and purposes, it is now history along with all the business ventures it served.

A small price, you say, for the progress which will ensue. Well, not so fast. Ultimately, cargo containers will be packed in China, shipped on Chinese freighters, unloaded unopened in Mexican ports owned and operated by the Chinese, trucked by Mexican carriers, blow past the U.S. border and be disbursed from a Smart Port in Kansas City, owned and operated by the Mexican government. This port will be sovereign to Mexico just as embassies are now. How inspections will be conducted remains to be seen.

To be continued...

Major financial step taken for Fine Arts Center



From left: Kaye Gorecki, executive director of the Bascom-Louise Gallery, Barry Buchanan, of the First Citizens Bank; Bill Coscioni, treasurer of the Bascom-Louise Gallery; Nick Bazan and Cynthia Dendy, both officers of First Citizens Bank, met recently at the bank to sign financial agreements for the new Fine Arts Center, Bascom-Louise Gallery.

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400 3rd-graders get dictionaries



The Kiwanis Club of Franklin gave 400 dictionaries to all of the third grade students in Macon County. The Kiwanis Club supports educational efforts for students and sponsors the Terrific Kids awards assemblies and New Century Scholars program. Pictured are Kim Angel, club president, and member Skip Howells.

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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

The Fifty Percent Democracy

The word "democracy" has been bandied about a lot in the last few years. President Bush says his foreign policy is based on promoting democracy in the world. Who could be against that?

But it appears that many people think democracy means merely holding elections. The purple fingers in Iraq were proof that democracy had succeeded, right? But elections can hide a lot of sins.

It's clear that democracy isn't easy. Look at the former Soviet Union. It appears to be on a slide back toward authoritarianism. The Russian people voted Vladimir Putin into power, yet he is slowly eliminating any vestiges of democracy.

What is democracy? Democracy means government by the people. Why does it succeed some places and fail in others? Are there conditions that are required in a nation in order for democracy to succeed?

As I have pondered this question, it seems to me the most basic requirement is a shared sense of identity in a nation.

Many nations base their identity on ethnicity or religion. For example, Israel is often described as a "Jewish democracy." The peoples of the former Yugoslavia tore themselves apart to create new nations that were more ethnically pure. It looks like Iraq is following the same path. It's probable that we'll end up with three nations where there is one today.

I think this is the basis of Europe's problem with Islam. To be French means your ancestors were French. An Algerian could move to France to work but could never *really* be French. It's similar to what someone told me when I asked what it meant to be a local here in Highlands. She said, "Your granny was born here."

The United States is revolutionary because our national identity is based not on ethnicity or religion but on abstract principles.

Have you ever asked yourself what it means to be American? It's actually a difficult question. It seems to me that to be an American means to be bound by these principles from the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and

the pursuit of Happiness..."

Basing a national identity on abstract principles is very powerful but at the same time very difficult.

Unfortunately I think some people misunderstand our national identity and mistakenly think it is based on ethnicity. Many of these are the voices raised against the current influx of immigrants;

they are afraid the immigrants are not assimilating into American culture, not learning the language, and as a consequence there will be a loss of social cohesion.

But this same argument has been used against immigration for 100 years and it wasn't true then and I don't think it's true now.

What seems a greater threat to me is the lack of participation in our democracy. The maximum voter turnout occurs during presidential elections and it hasn't gotten over 50 percent in years — and it's far lower in local elections. How can you have government by the people when only half the people participate?

And it's only going to get worse: "According to OnPoint Polling and Research of Raleigh, 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 are over 50."

I have talked to young people who don't vote and they don't think their voice matters. I used to believe that was based on ignorance but I'm starting to see why they think that way. Over and over again polls show the majority of Americans feel one way about an issue, and then Congress acts in a way not consistent with the wishes of the people but in accordance with special interests.

Bill Clinton's impeachment was a good example. Two-thirds of the country felt that the president should be censured and Congress should get on with more important matters, but the Republicans couldn't let it go.

A good current example is universal health insurance. The majority of Americans are in favor of a government program but the insurance companies aren't going to allow that without a major fight so we see nothing from our

•See BRUGGER page 12



Katie Brugger
k-brugger@hotmail.com

• HIS & HERS •

Mr. V. and Mr. Le

A couple of weeks ago two very special people died. The first is Kurt Vonnegut, and the second is Thanh Cong Le.

I moved to New York City in 1994, and was lucky to have a Barnes & Noble just a few blocks away. One day, coming back with a bag of books, I found myself in the path of the same man whose face graced my Barnes & Noble bag. It was Kurt Vonnegut out walking his wife's white Maltese terrier. I looked at the face on the bag, then to Mr. V., then back to the bag. He stood there, bemused. We didn't speak a word, but I remember thinking as I walked away, "Whoopie! I've just had a famous person sighting!"

The streets of New York are filled with famous people. I remember my first sighting, seeing an older, distinguished gentleman, and thinking "Gee, if he wasn't wearing jeans and a plaid flannel shirt, he could be Walter Cronkite!" It was Walter Cronkite. Over the years, I sat in a restaurant next to Jackie Mason, stood in line at the liquor store in back of Brian Dennehy, bumped into Fyvish Finkel at the drug store, exited Au Bon Pain just behind Ronan Tynan, one of the Irish Tenors. But my personal favorite was Kurt Vonnegut.

It had been a lovely day, and I'd paused to sit on a bench at the small park on Second Avenue. After a few minutes, I realized I was sitting next to Mr. V., whose commencement speech at Agnes Scott College I'd recently watched on C-SPAN. We started chatting, and had the kind of marvelous conversation people can have with perfect strangers. It turned out he'd worked at General Electric in Schenectady at the same time as my father. They'd both fought in World War II. Not until I noticed it was chilly and dark did I realize how much time had passed. I excused myself, and gathered my shopping bags. It seemed rude to break the spell. I stuck my hand out to shake his. His eyes twinkled as he took my hand, and he paid me one of the nicest compliments ever. "You are a merry soul," he said.

Years went by. I moved to a new apartment. From time to time, I'd run into Mr. V. We'd smile and nod, sometimes exchange a few words. Just a few months before I left New York for good, I was going to lunch with my best friend, Chris. As we passed by St. Bart's Church, the funeral for Walter Cronkite's wife had just finished,



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

and people were leaving. Down the steps walked Mr. V. On an impulse, I went up to him. "I'm sure you don't remember me," I stammered. "But we sat on a park bench once, for hours and hours, and had the most wonderful conversation," I ended, lamely. He smiled with that special twinkle, and reached out his

hand. "It must have been love," he teased. "It still is," I grinned, squeezing his hand.

When I decided to leave New York, it seemed important to say good-bye to Mr. V. One day, I ran into him, and told him the rambling story of how John and I had met, fallen in love, lost and then found each other again. "What an extraordinary story!" he said, shaking his head. "You couldn't make one up like that!" I thought of what I could possibly tell this remarkable man, that wouldn't sound trite and soppy. "Thank you for being a part of what New York was for me." Six months later, he died, aged 84.

The other day, a young man passed away, not a famous man, nor, alas, an old one. Thanh Cong Le was 24, married, and the father of two young children, with a third due in June. He died before his time, of a strange virus not common to this area. He was the only child of Julie Nguyen, and worked with his mother and stepfather, Tony Hamasaki, at #1 Nails in Highlands. It is not in the natural order of things that parents bury their children.

John and I attended his wake, and his funeral the next day. It was impossible not to be moved by the outpouring of grief and love for this special young man, who had so much to live for. As I looked out into the congregation, and saw the sad faces of his family and friends, I realized that this is what a small town does. It takes people to its heart, and cherishes them. It watches them grow up, go to school, marry, have children. It laughs with them; it cries for them. It cheers them in their triumphs; it stands beside families in their grief. Death, for all its harshness and pain, unites us in the knowledge of how precious life really is, and calls us to cherish each day, with those people who have made our lives the richer for their presence.

• About the Author: Michelle A. Mead is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She is a member of the Highlands Writers Group.

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Highlands beats Murphy



Highlands School Girls' Soccer creamed Murphy, April 5 at Murphy. The score was 5-0. Pictured is Carolyn Hornsby with the ball. She scored three goals that day.

Photo by Noel Atherton

... ANOTHER VIEW continued from page 5

an all too often uneducated population, and with native elites eager to replace the departed or dismembered foreigners, the results of independence have often been disastrous.

Enter the United States and neocolonialism, an attempt to dominate less developed nations militarily, culturally, and economically. Bob, my electronic pen-pal, said that the French learned a valuable lesson after they "got their butts beaten in Algeria" and "then whipped again in Viet Nam," but we call them cowards rather than a nation that has learned from history. We failed to learn the lesson that imperialism is dead. We might have learned from the French experience in Viet Nam, or from our own. We might have learned from the Soviet experience in Afghanistan, or from the greater Soviet experience which ended when subjugated people were no longer willing to be governed by foreigners or by their elite domestic puppets. We applauded the mujahideen in Afghanistan killing Russians and bringing down their helicopters. They were heroic and intriguing figures, walking along rocky ridges, dressed in baggy pants and turbans, carrying AK-47's and rocket propelled grenades. They defeated an empire, one far less squeamish about slaughtering its subjects than our own.

As casualties mounted and we found ourselves bogged down in an insurgency, our leaders told us that Iraq in no way resembles Viet Nam. We might have learned, but we were blinded by hunger for revenge or thirst for oil. We were warned of weapons of mass destruction and al Qaeda connections. We claimed a desire to spread democracy in the Middle East and to rid Iraq of a ruthless dictator. We failed to learn the lesson of history.

There is much good that we can offer the world. We were once respected around the globe as a bastion of human rights and a citadel of freedom. Much of the world continues to crave freedom, but like Coca-Cola and McDonalds, while they may have a taste for what we have in such abundance, they don't want it shoved down their throats.

We find ourselves, the first country to strike a blow against colonialism, walking in straight rows and wearing bright red uniforms, while Iraqi insurgents, metaphorically at least, wear drab earth tones and fire from behind rocks and trees. Our effort to deny history is draining and will continue to exhaust our nation and our military. It is ironic that the first nation to take up arms against a colonial power is now the last country striving to create an empire.

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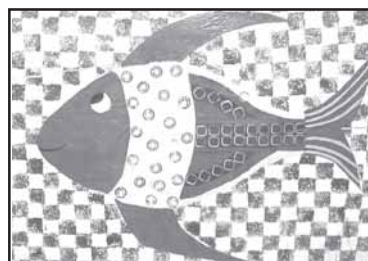
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Memorial fund for Thanh Cong Le

Due to the outpouring of sympathy surrounding the death of Thanh Le, a fund has been set up at Macon Bank in his memory.

Thanh's tragic death at 24 years of age leaves his wife and two children under the age of three and a child due in two months.

Many of you know Julie, Thanh's mother, and her husband Tony who are owners of #1 Nails in Wright Square.

Contributions may be made to the Thanh Le Memorial Fund at Macon Bank. The address is Macon Bank, 473 Carolina Way, P.O. Box 1849, Highlands, NC, 28741

... THANKS from page 3 Citizens pick up litter

On Sunday, April 22nd volunteers celebrated Earth Day by cleaning up U.S. 64 west and the Dillard Road. The volunteers armed with their orange reflective vests, worked from early morning to noon then returned to the Chamber of Commerce for sandwiches and chips provided by Bryson's Foods. A special thanks goes to the many volunteers who dedicated their Saturday for this worthwhile effort and to Jim Bryson and Terry Watson for donating the sandwiches and chips

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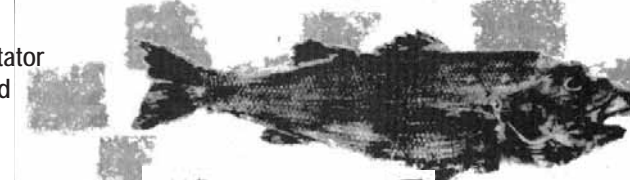
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... BRUGGER continued from page 8

legislature.

The two political parties fight over a relatively few moderate voters while there is this huge reservoir of votes for any politician who has the guts to turn his or her back on the corrupt Washington scene and take up the issues that matter to ordinary people.

After reading my last week's column on freedom of speech article a friend mentioned a Norman Rockwell painting of a meeting where men in suits are

listening respectfully to a man in a worn jacket (you can see it at "Norman Rockwell" on wikipedia.com). I have thought of that image many times in the last week. It speaks forcefully to me; I think it gets to the heart of what democracy is.


Democracy does not require equality of income but it requires respect for everyone and for everyone's opinion, eminently including the poor and working class.

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• MC SCHOOL BOARD NEWS •

Stakeholders survey results explained

By Susanna Hearn
Reporter

A review of the Superintendent Stakeholders Survey at the April 23 school board meeting revealed the concerns and praises of the parents, students and community leaders about Macon County schools.

"The results were district-wide," said Dan Brigman, Macon County School Superintendent. "All parents, employees, and teachers received them. The only group that was pinpointed was students." Surveys weren't sent to students in every grade, only to students in the 5th, 8th and 12th grades

Out of the 600 sent out to community members, only 28 were returned. The top five areas of concern for community members were alcohol in the schools, sufficient space for students growth, sufficient space for current enrollment, bullying, and adequate finances. On the positive side community members praised the schools' technological preparedness, the teachers, and the schools' welcoming atmosphere. Parents' remarks mirrored that of the

community's concerning a healthy lunch program which was one of parents' top five concerns. Whereas bullying was part of the community's top five concerns. Parents also praised teachers, as well as principals and the schools' high level of technological advancement.

The survey received 728 responses from students who were targeted in grades 5, 8, and 12. Students were concerned about tobacco, healthy lunches, drugs, the cleanliness of school buses, and respect for other students. They praised the schools for mathematics program, teachers and principals.

School employees sent back 369 surveys and their concerns ranged from space for future student growth, competitive salaries, tobacco and drugs. In the positive category they respected fellow teachers and principals, and they felt the schools employed qualified instructional staff.

"We are excited about the input," said Brigman. "Our goals for next year include clarifying the directions about where to send the surveys for community members."

School Board budget tweaked, risk behavior and land offer discussed

By Susanna Hearn
Reporter

The Franklin High School Youth Risk Behavior Planning Committee presented their thoughts and ideas on sexual behavior and sex education in the schools to the Macon County School Board at their April 23 meeting.

Franklin High School students Jess Martin, Head Chair of the committee, and Kaitlyn McGee, committee secretary, encouraged the board to review their policy on abstinence only sex education because comprehensive sex education classes worked better than abstinence only classes.

"We looked at the top risky behaviors and focused on sexual behavior," said Martin. "It hadn't been addressed in previous years."

The committee has worked with the Macon County Health Department, Joanna Chase of DPI, as well as others in the community and beyond to create a strategy focused on helping middle school students avoid risky sexual behavior.

The Board also discussed budget amendments for State Public School funds and Capitol Outlay as well as the 07-08 Budget which must be approved for county commissioner by May 1. The only

change was the amount of money needed for the gym and track renovations at Franklin High School which was reduced from \$140,000 to \$125,000.

"It is a bare bones budget," said Dan Brigman, Macon County School Superintendent. "I want to commend the team who worked on this for getting down to the bare essentials."

An application for the NC Educational Lottery Fund was approved. The \$140,000 from the fund would be used for the bleachers at Franklin High. The fund does not require a match and cannot be used for technology. The school system receives the allocation every quarter.

An inquiry into the purchase of a piece of land owned by the school board was discussed. The land, located in Nantahala, is less than one acre, and was purchased by the board in 1904 for seven dollars from the McMahan family. A client of Thomas Baldwin, a member of the board, is interested in making an offer on the land. The offer must be presented to the county commissioners for first refusal before being advertised. If no other offers are presented, then the sale can proceed.

Highlands artist displays 'A Reflection on the Yin' at UNF

The University of North Florida Women's Center presents Florida artist David La Cagnina on Monday, April 30, at 6 p.m. in the Robinson Theatre on the UNF campus. He will lecture on "A Reflection on the Yin: Under the Florida Sea" and will also have his artwork on display. This event is free and open to the public.

The art exhibit continues on Tuesday, May 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Wednesday, May 2, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Robinson Theatre. La Cagnina's pieces will be on sale in the front lobby and on the staging area of the UNF Robinson Theatre each day of the exhibit.

La Cagnina's lecture will examine the complex connection between art and the feminine (reflective) perspective. His art work features an abstract aquamarine genre, and his eclectic mix of fish scenes allows for an aesthetically pleasing experience for all audiences.

David La Cagnina is the son of late Key West artist, Henry La Cagnina, who achieved fame when the Great Depression hit Key West in 1933. To help restore the town's economy, the federal government created a vision of a tourist town for the Keys. Henry La Cagnina was one of the 13

artists selected to share their visions of the unique cultural climate of the Keys with the rest of the country.

Henry La Cagnina's posters encouraged the war effort along with those of 350 other invited artists at the National Gallery in Washington, D. C., in 1943 and toured nationwide. His work has been collected

by the Fords, Mellons and other notable art collectors. David continues the La Cagnina legacy by working to perfect his own unique style.

David La Cagnina graduated from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and subsequently completed naval flight training. His

first assignment was Jacksonville, where he spent three years from 1961 to 1964 deployed on the U.S.S. Shangri-la and other aircraft carriers. Upon leaving the Navy, he owned and operated art galleries in Stuart, Hobe Sound and Naples. Currently his paintings are on display at the La Cagnina Gallery in Highlands, and Gallery on the Greene in Key West.

For more information about this event, contact the UNF Women's Center at (904) 620-2528.



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... ETJ continued from page 1

tions of amending Section 2-67 of the Highlands Code.

"The only change to what has actually taken place concerning representation is that the exact method of determining proportional representation is spelled out in detail — same as the brief the Town filed," said Town Administrator Richard Betz. "And that it clearly says ETJ members can participate in all Planning Board and Zoning Board matters — which they have been doing anyway."

When the board came out of open session April 18, members voted 3 to 1 to amend the code to mirror the brief filed by the town. Commissioners Herb James, Amy Patterson and Dennis DeWolf voted yes; Commissioner Alan Marsh voted no, and Commissioner Hank Ross was out of town.

Section 2-67 of the Highlands Code was amended as follows:

Paragraphs (b) and (c) of Section 2-67 were deleted and replaced with the following paragraphs (b), (c), and (d):

(b) All members of the planning board appointed as representatives of any extra-territorial area, either for regular terms or

to fill vacancies of any unexpired term, shall be appointed pursuant to N.C.G.S. 160A-362. The regular term for all members of the planning board shall be three years. Planning board members shall serve without compensation.

(c) Areas regulated by extraterritorial jurisdiction shall have proportional representation on the planning board and the zoning board of adjustment established by Section 601.1 of the Town Code. In compliance with N.C.G.S. 160A-362, which requires the Town to provide a "means of proportional representation based on population for residents of the extraterritorial area to be regulated," the Town shall proceed as follows:

(1) The Town shall determine the number of residential dwellings within the extraterritorial area to be regulated based upon Macon County's 911 emergency management data ("X") and the average number of residents per dwelling within the extraterritorial area to be regulated based upon the latest federal decennial census ("A").

(2) The Town shall determine the

number of residential dwellings within the corporate limits of the Town based upon Macon County's 911 emergency management data ("Y") and the average number of residents per dwelling within the corporate limits of the Town based upon the latest federal decennial census ("B").

(3) The appropriate percentage of representation on the planning board and the zoning board shall be determined by the following formula: $XA/(XA + YB)$.

(4) The percentage thus determined shall be multiplied by the total number of members on each board to determine proportional representation respectively for each board.

Also clarified was the subject matter the ETJ representatives may act on.

(d) Members appointed as representatives of any extra-territorial area, either for regular terms or to fill the vacancies of any

unexpired term, shall have equal rights, privileges, and duties with the other members of the board to which they are appointed, regardless of whether the matters at issue arise within the Town or within the extra-territorial area.

Mayor Don Mullen said as per the above calculations, the number of ETJ representatives will remain the same — two on the Planning Board and one on the Zoning Board.

Though back in 2006 board members verbally agreed to allow the county to pick the representatives from the ETJ area for the Planning and Zoning boards, that issue hasn't been put in writing and is still a point of contention.

"That issue is still in discussion," said Mayor Don Mullen. "I hope we can work that out with county commission when we meet with them in a joint meeting, soon."

Bishop Alex Dickson at Christ Anglican

The Right Reverend Alex D. Dickson, retired Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee, and his wife, Jane, will visit Highlands the week of April 29. He will preach and celebrate Holy Communion at Christ Anglican Church's 11:00 a.m. Sunday worship services April 29 and May 6; and will speak on the future of Anglicanism in North America at 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 2. All events will be at the Highlands Community Center adjacent to the baseball field. Visitors and friends are welcome!



**The Right Reverend
Alex D. Dickson**

Bishop Dickson is currently serving as Pastoral Bishop for the Southeastern Convocation of the Anglican Communion Network of Dioceses and Parishes. Highly active in the national Episcopal Church for many years, Bishop Dickson previously served on the Executive Council, the Standing Liturgical Commission, the Council for the Development of Ministry, the Joint Task Force for Lay Ministry, and served at 14 consecutive General Conventions from 1964 to 1997, first as a Deputy, and then as a Bishop. He also was a member of the Board of Regents of the University of the South.

Bishop Dickson served as a Founding Member and as Vice President of the American Anglican Council, as a Founding Member and member of the Steering Committee of the Irenaeus Fellowship of Bishops, and as Chairman of the Board of the North American Missionary Society. Earlier he served as an Episcopal advisor to the First Promise Movement of the Episcopal Church and was co-consecrator of Bishops Chuck Murphy and John Rodgers in Singapore in January, 2000. He currently serves as a member of the Council of Bishops of the Anglican Mission in America.

Prior to becoming the first Bishop of West Tennessee, he served as Rector and Headmaster of All Saints Episcopal Church and All Saints Episcopal School, Vickburg, MS. He earlier served three other churches

in Mississippi. Bishop Dickson received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Mississippi, a Master of Education degree from Mississippi College, and his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Divinity degrees from the University of the South.

His wife, the former Jane Carver, and her family owned a home in Highlands for many years. She and Bishop Dickson look forward to being reunited with many long time friends during their visit.

For more information about his visit and Christ Anglican Church, please contact the church office at 526-2320.

... VOTES from page 1

motion that passed. "There is no great ground swell of development in those areas that warrants zoning, and I see no reason for the town to exercise its right to establish zoning in those ETJ areas."

Since ETJ was extended to the areas in November 2005, the town's subdivision and soil erosion & sedimentation ordinances automatically apply there, so it's not like the area is "regulation free," said board members.

Planning Board member and Horse Cove resident Mitch Gurganus — who is against ETJ in the Cove — submitted the letter he gave to the Town Board last week to the Planning Board.

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 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," read

• See VOTES page 16

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... MULLEN continued from page 2

the high cost housing but simply the high cost of other primary commodities here.

The town is also in the process of reviewing our utility poles with all their attachments such as cable, telephone and electrical. Over the years the town has grown and the poles are getting crowded. McGavern Engineering of Charlotte is reviewing our procedures regarding poles and the fees charged to various organizations for use of these poles which belong to the town. Even before this study was requested, the town had already begun pole change outs to improve their function and safety. This will continue, and we will be taking into consideration some of the suggestions of McGavern in the way we charge the various utilities for the use of our poles.

Over the past several month the board of commissioners has been interviewing architects in order to determine

who would be best to begin the task of looking at our town hall facilities and making recommendations regarding the building of a new town hall. We have chosen the Asheville firm of Mitchell Sorin along with his association with John Fisher's firm to do the initial work for us. Phase One of the project includes a needs assessment and initial schematic drawings along with placement of the building on the property we have and will begin sometime soon.

We are looking forward to working with this group to help us determine which direction we will go over the next several years to achieve the development of a building we hope will not only supply our needs for many years to come but will also be energy efficient and effective. The board welcomes public input into this very important project.

... LETTERS continued from page 2

If just a few people at Virginia Tech had had their own firearms think of how much differently that might have turned out. But I think there is one thing about which we can all be quite certain—disarming the innocent will only make them easier prey for people like Cho and government agents who believe that civilians are for target practice (as in the case of Randy Weaver's wife and son. Randy's wife was murdered by a government agent — she was "armed" with her baby. Randy's son was shot in the back by some of the same brave agents).

I understand Dr. Salzarulo's argument but don't agree with it. As a constitutionalist my idea of "gun control" is hitting what you aim at. And the founders idea of "gun control" was that every citizen should be armed with the same weapons as the soldiers to aid in an invasion and, when it became necessary, to throw off a government grown tyrannical and despotic. There is PLENTY of information available which refutes the preposterous idea that all that is meant by the "militia" mentioned in the second amendment is something like the National Guard. For those who have access to the internet there are many articles about what the militia is and the fact that there is more than one militia. There is the organized militia and the unorganized militia. Those who argue against the right of an individual to own firearms and insist that it only applies to an agency of the government argue with something less than complete knowledge of their claims. One very good article called *The Right to Bear Arms: A Reply* by Charles Cantrell can be found at this link: <http://www.guncite.com/journals/cantrell.html>.

For whatever it's worth Dr. Salzarulo should consider the company he keeps when he argues in favor of more "gun

control." The greatest proponents of "gun control" have been wonderful folks like Adolf Hitler who said, "The most foolish mistake we could possibly make would be to permit the conquered Eastern peoples to have arms. History teaches that all conquerors who have allowed their subject races to carry arms have prepared their own downfall by doing so." (as quoted in his *Tischgespräche im Führerhauptquartier*, April 11, 1942)

Additionally, the worst school massacre in the history of this country was not even a result of the killer using guns. On May 18, 1927 Andrew Kehoe blew up a school in Bath, Michigan, killing 45 people, 37 of them children. After detonating explosives he planted under the school, "maniac bomber" Andrew Kehoe, a school board member and treasurer and farmer, blew up his pickup truck, killing himself and the Bath School superintendent.

Finally, I leave it to the reader to consider the following statement by Daniel D. Polsby, Washington University Law Quarterly, Volume 73, Number 3, Fall 1997: "Contemporary scholars have little explored the preconditions of genocide. Still less have they asked whether a society's weapons policy might be one of the institutional arrangements that contributes to the probability of its government engaging in some of the more extreme varieties of outrage. Though it is a long step between being disarmed and being murdered — one does not usually lead to the other — but it is nevertheless an arresting reality that not one of the principal genocides of the twentieth century, and there have been dozens, has been inflicted on a population that was armed."

Danny Crane
Highlands

•See LETTERS page 20

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Annual 'Mountain Lakes 5K' race is set for May 5

Runners and fitness walkers alike are invited to participate in the Mountain Lakes 5-K Race, scheduled for Saturday, May 5, at 9 a.m.

The event is the annual fund-raiser for the Highlands Roadrunners Club, and organizers are expecting good attendance for the race, now in its eighth year.

This year's race is being dedicated to Richard Tankersley, a long-time member of the Highlands Roadrunners Club and the

Birmingham Track Club and an enthusiastic supporter of this race, who died in a tragic accident on March 25, 2007.

"We already have a lot of out-of-town runners signed up, but would also like to have good local participation," said Race Director Richard Betz.

"Our goal as a running club is to encourage life-long fitness, and running or walking is the key to it for a lot of us," Betz said. "Whether it's keeping your weight off,

maintaining good muscle tone, even having more energy; you name it — beginning and staying with a program of running or fitness walking can definitely help.

The 5-K (3.1-mile) course is a loop that begins on US 64 in front of the Highlands Civic Center, circles around Lake Ravenel and Harris Lake, and finishes on Laurel Street beside First Citizens Bank. Traffic control will be provided throughout the course by Police and volunteers. Betz said that fitness walkers are encouraged to participate, and that the course is relatively easy. However, since part of the route is on an unpaved gravel road, strollers are not recommended.

The entry fee for the race is \$15 before race day, and entry forms are available at the Town Hall, the Civic Center, and the Visitors Center, or on line at www.main.nc.us/hrc. Each participant will receive a quality long-sleeved T-shirt, and trophies will be awarded to the overall male and female winners, male and female masters winners (over 40), and to the male and female first, second, and third place finishers in five-year age groups. In recognition of so many senior runners, this year the 70-and-over category has been expanded to 70-74, 75-79, and 80-and-over. As in past years, Powerade will be provided by Coca-Cola company and finish line bananas will be

provided by August Produce; Sysco will provide bagels.

Pre-registered runners can pick up their numbers and race packets at the Civic Center on the morning of the race beginning at 7:30 a.m. Race-day registration will also take place that morning at the Civic Center. Race-day registration will be \$17 per person.

Gold level sponsors this year are Koenig Homebuilders, Country Club Properties, Nellis Communities Inc., Wilson Gas Service, Lupoli Construction, and the Highlands Chamber of Commerce. Silver sponsors are Highlands Country Club, Highlands Decorating Center, Nantahala Tire & Car Care, First Citizens Bank, and Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

As in past years, proceeds from the race will go toward fitness-related programs in the local community. The club awards a number of scholarships each year to Highlands School graduates who carry on some type of fitness activities while continuing their education. The club has also used the proceeds from past races to help purchase fitness equipment for Highlands School, HealthTracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, and the Highlands Recreation Park. The Highlands Roadrunners Club is a non-profit organization, and entry fees and contributions are tax-deductible.

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... VOTES continued from page 14

Gurganus.

He said 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," he said.

Most people in the room and on the board agreed that those areas aren't on the Highlands Plateau, but Chairman Bell disagreed. Rather than defining the plateau as a land formation, Bell defined it as a community.

"You go off the plateau when you go to Clayton, Franklin, and Walhalla. We're not thinking geology, we're thinking people, he said. "The residents of Clear Creek and Horse Cove are part of the Highlands community. I even refer to the Highlands-Cashiers plateau and Cashiers is something like 380 feet lower than Highlands. The land use plan doesn't specify boundaries."

Gurganus and others adamantly disagreed saying geographically a plateau is defined as a table and that the mission of the Land Use Plan is to protect the Highlands Plateau including the town's water supply, the natural environment and the highway corridors.

"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 re-

quired by law prior to exercising extraterritorial jurisdiction," contended Gurganus.

He and others also said instead of being adjacent to the town's limits like other areas recently included in ETJ, Horse Cove and Clear Creek are adjacent to U.S. Forest Service land far removed from the town limits of Highlands. Nor are there any corridors associated with the areas.

Gurganus said several pieces of property in Horse Cove have been put into conservation easements or given to the Highlands-Land Trust which means they can't be built upon.

The majority of the audience agreed with Gurganus.

"I've lived in Highlands 15 years and I'd like to see some sort of property protection through county zoning, but I'm dead set against the Town of Highlands having anything to do with Horse Cove," said Robert Tucker. "This is government without representation. We don't have a problem in Horse Cove. Why do we need your interference?"

Gurganus said two General Statutes — 160 and 165 being discussed in Raleigh — would give people in ETJ areas the right to vote for their representatives. "Those bills didn't pass last time, but we'll have to see how it goes this time," he said.

Luther and Ann Turner, whose family has lived in the Cove since 1838, represent

• See VOTES page 20

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Jesus, tolerant?

By Darlene Melcher

Tolerance. It seems to be the catch-phrase of our generation. By some standards you'd be better to be found as an adulterous, embezzling, swindling drunk than intolerant. The other day, I was having a discussion with a friend about religion. Coming from an eclectic background she was sifting through all the choices available and was leaning towards an eastern religion. Being a Christian, naturally I asked, "Have you considered Jesus and Christianity?"

"Well," she replied, "It's too intolerant."

"Hmm," I sipped my chai, "In the religion you are considering, how do you get to heaven or its comparison?" I asked. She explained karma and how a person could be reincarnated until they have lived a good enough life to qualify for moving on.

"So, you only get to 'heaven' if you have enough good karma? Whew! I'm glad I don't have to measure up to those standards." Her quizzical expression bid me to explain. "Well, in that religion, you are granted rest for your soul only once you have lived a good enough life – which is undeterminable. But with Jesus, even thieves, murderers and liars are granted rest for their souls. No one is too bad for God to forgive, when they believe that Jesus paid for their way into God's presence. Seems to me, Jesus is more tolerant."

I'm still amazed at how many people reject Jesus and the Bible because they perceive the clear, well-outlined guides for a healthy and happy life as intolerant. Was your mom intolerant when she told you not to run into oncoming traffic? Is it possible that the God described in the Bible, who created people with the purpose of enjoying an intimate, loving relationship, made perimeters and boundaries to protect us from ourselves and our ignorance?

What is tolerance, anyway? We are all familiar with the part of the definition that refers to respecting the opinions of others, but there is more. The definition continues, "to endure, to suffer." These words bring a poignant scene to mind. An execution. Crowds gather to watch the three men die of suffocation. Two are thieves, punished justly for their crimes. But the third, the one in the middle, he is a mystery. Some say he is a madman, some say a blasphemous liar, but others think he is something more: a savior, the Savior. Even as the guards hurl verbal abuse and spit on His bleeding body, He endures. He asks His Father to forgive them even as He is suffering and dying. Luke 23:39 picks up the scene:

"Then one of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, 'Are you not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!'" But the other answered, and rebuking him said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

What good deed had the thief done to earn this tolerance? He had no time to build good karma; he did not die a noble death. However, he recognized Jesus' sacrifice and he realized that he was not deserving of mercy, but in hope, he asked anyway. We claim to be tolerant, but would we forgive as quickly? Do we ask God to forgive those who ARE hurting us? Do we give the vile and despicable a chance for mercy?

•See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 22

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Wednesdays: 5:15 p.m. Students' Dinner (free for kids in 8th grade and younger);

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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)

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Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – Seekers

Wednesdays: Prayer – noon; Choir – 7

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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.

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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.

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LAND FOR SALE – 2.18 acres \$40,000. Firm.Serious inquiries only 828-526-2874. 5/3

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Walk to hospital. Great location between Highlands and Cashiers. Needs interior finishing...bring imagination. Motivated seller. Make offer. Call 828-200-9333.

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

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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,

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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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.

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Sunday, April 29 and
Sunday May 6 at 11 a.m.
with The Very Reverend

Alex D. Dickson,
Retired Bishop of West Tenn.

Lecture:

“The future of Anglicanism in
America”

Wednesday, May 2, 5 p.m.

with The Very Reverend
Alex D. Dickson

Holy Communion:

Sunday May 13, 11 a.m.
The Reverend

Dr. Timothy R. Smith

Rector,

Holy Trinity Anglican Church
Jackson, Miss.

All services are at the

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For more information, call the

Christ Anglican Church office at 526-2320

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The Girls' Clubhouse helps on Earth Day



For the first time in three years, Earth Day on the green in Cashiers wasn't thwarted due to weather. Tents were set up on the green offering all kinds of booths and activities for those interested in promoting the planet Earth! Members of The Girls' Clubhouse helped in various ways. Three more girls joined their peers before the festival was over.

Photo by Coleen Fogle

... LETTERS continued from page 15

Did Highlands perform safety checks?

Dear Editor:

The other day I read an interesting article about a woman who was being prepped for surgery in 1978. They had placed tubes that shunted oxygen-depleted blood from her body to the heart-lung machine and then, fortified with oxygen, back into her body. The tubes got crossed, however, and were emplaced backward. The doctor did not make the appropriate safety checks that would have uncovered the error. For up to 17 minutes her brain was deprived of adequate oxygen. She was left permanently and grievously brain-damaged.

This article made me think about Highlands. Has it done the safety checks it should have prior to enacting ETJ? What will be the long term effects of ETJ? Public opinion should have been adequate warning that “safety checks” should have been done before proceeding. Did Highlands cross its tubes when it ignored public opinion? I hope Highlands wasn't grievously damaged.

Harold Neely
Highlands

... VOTES continued from page 16

a family divided on the issue. Ann is absolutely against ETJ and zoning associated with it in Horse Cove; Luther is absolutely for it.

“We're taken under the wing of the powers-that-be in Highlands with no vote with them telling us what to do with our property and our lives in Horse Cove,” said Ann. “We're not part of the watershed, we're not a mile from town. The town has the right to do this because Raleigh has given it the right to do this, but I'm going to check that out,” she said.

Her husband Luther says he's worried about 30, 40, 50 years from now.

“I have 80 acres and I want to see the property developed attractively. There's nothing wrong with Horse Cove now – everyone takes care of it now – but years from now, when I'm gone what's going to happen?” he asked. “Once I'm in the Highlands Cove cemetery, I want to know what's developed will be done attractively.”

Thomas Craig, a Horse Cove resident and co-chair of the Appearance Commission echoed Luther's comments.

“We are not here to argue the validity of ETJ. We have had a lack of planning on the county level and the fact that the town is stepping up indicates something needs

to be done. I'm glad we're having this discussion,” said Craig. “I'm for planning so five years from now we're not dealing with something horrible. Horse Cove is going to change. When was the last time a tract of land sold and it wasn't developed to the max? It's coming and I don't want us to wake up and say ‘What happened?’ We're talking about this now so 20 years from now we all look back and say, ‘We did the right thing.’”

Horse Cove resident Richard Melvin agreed saying times have changed and some sort of zoning is needed.

“I used to think we had protection due to our isolation, but some of these engineers build on anything,” he said. “I wouldn't want someone to put up a skyscraper over my house and I'd rather have a small group in Highlands tell me what to do than someone in Franklin or Raleigh.”

Planning Board member Doug Campbell asked for a unanimous vote. “We've learned if we want our vote to go through, it has to be unanimous. The town's not interested in a split vote,” he said.

Bell said the best the board could hope for was a vote, period. The board's recommendation will be presented to the Town Board at its May 2 meeting.

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• 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.

• 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 Saturday 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 Monday

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

Every Tuesday

• For eight weeks on Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m. in the First Presbyterian Church Chapel "Companions in Christ." This study is an exploration of the forgiven and forgiving life written by Marjorie Thompson. Books are \$12 and will be available in the church office. Call 526-3175 for more information.

• 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 Wednesday

• Wednesday Noon Prayers noon at First

Presbyterian Church. A brief service of 20-30 minutes, led by Don Mullen, for reading of scripture, silence, meditation, prayer and communion in the sanctuary. A midweek time to come in adoration and prayer.

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.

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.

Friday, 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.

• Senior Citizen Luncheon at the Rec Park at noon. Donations only. This is the last luncheon until November. Call 526-3556.

Saturday, April 28

• Highlands School Junior-Senior Prom at the Performing Arts Center. Crowning is at 11 p.m.

• SCC automotive technology and culinary technology students are sponsoring a car and bike show Saturday, April 28, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the parking lot of the Jackson Campus. Admission is free to the public. To register a vehicle will cost \$15 before the event and \$20 the day of the event. To register, call 586-4091, ext. 256. The show will include a swap meet, trophies, prizes and music. Money raised will help the culinary students attend the National Culinary Arts Convention in Chicago next month.

• The 3rd Annual R.E.A.C.H. Motorcycle Rally, Car Show and Sound Off begin at 8:30 a.m. with registration for the tri-state motorcycle ride beginning at Franklin Ford. There will be food vendors, entertainment, a silent action and raffled prizes. There will be the opportunity to purchase a ticket for a chance to win a 2007 Harley Davidson Sportster to be raffled in October. All proceeds benefit R.E.A.C.H. of Macon County, a non-profit organization that assists victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Children from homes with family violence also receive R.E.A.C.H. services. The public is invited

• Clear Creek Baptist Church presents dinner and singing starting at 5 p.m. Donations collected will go toward the fellowship hall.

Sunday, April 29

• The Right Reverend Alex D. Dickson, retired Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of West Ten-

nessee,, 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 at 4 p.m.

Monday, April 30

• The Art League of Highlands will present a free luncheon program beginning at noon at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library. Sara McKee, an art teacher at Hampton School, will present "Young at Art." This will be useful for anyone involved with children and hands-on art. Adult artists will also be inspired by the imagination of young artists. Call Kathie Blozan for info 743-1765

Wednesday, May 2

• The Right Reverend Alex D. Dickson, retired Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee, will speak on the future of Anglicanism in North America at 5 p.m. at Christ Anglican Church at its new location in the Highlands Community Center adjacent to the baseball field. Visitors and friends are welcome!

Friday, 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 Frissy and Creighton's home at 295 Bonnie Drive.

Friday & Saturday, May 4 & 5

• 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.

Saturday, May 5

• Mountain Lakes 5-K race, a loop that begins on US 64 in front of the Highlands Civic Center, circles around Lake Ravenel and Harris Lake, and finishes on Laurel Street beside First Citizens Bank. The entry fee for the race is \$15 before race day, and entry forms are available at the Town Hall, the Civic Center, and the Visitors Center, or on line at www.main.nc.us/hrc.

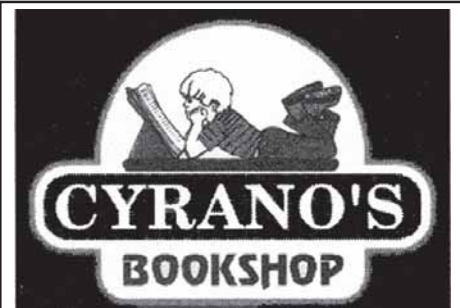
• Healthy Carolinians of Macon County has scheduled its fourth annual golf tournament on Saturday at Mill Creek Country Club in Franklin, NC. Shotgun Start is 9 a.m. Registration Fee to play in the tournament is \$75 per player, or \$150 for a team. Registration includes green fee, cart fee, and lunch 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 \$5,000 will be 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.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 5-mile hike up Osage Mtn. and Rocky Knob with two 500 foot elevation changes. Meet at the Ski Scaly parking lot on Hwy. 106 at 10 a.m. Bring a drink, a lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Drive 4 miles round trip. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader Virginia Talbot, 526-4904.

Sunday, May 6

• The Right Reverend Alex D. Dickson, retired Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of West

• See EVENTS page 22



390 Main Street • 526-5488

Upcoming Book Signings

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 William Bartram's Travels."

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

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Tennessee, will preach and celebrate Holy Communion at Christ Anglican Church's 11 a.m. Sunday worship service in its new location at the Highlands Community Center adjacent to the baseball field. Visitors and friends are welcome!

- The Nantahala Hiking will take an easy, almost level, 1.5 mile-hike on the Park Creek trail along the Nantahala river. Drive 30 miles round trip. Meet at Westgate Plaza (opposite Burger King) at 2 p.m. Bring a drink, a snack, if you wish, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820.

Monday-Friday, May 7 - May 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!

Monday, May 7

- Pine Street Park Public Meeting at the Highlands Community Center at 5:30 p.m. to learn what activities citizens would like to see at the park and to get ideas about the park design.

- Recreational bridge 1 p.m. at the Rec Park. Only \$3 per person, so bring a partner and let's have fun!

- Softball Meeting at the Rec Park at 6:30 p.m. Representatives must attend to play in this year's league. Call 526-3556.

Thursday-Sunday May 10 - 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," a romantic comedy set in England and Italy in 1922. For ticket information and reservations call 828-526-8084. The production 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.

Friday-Sunday, May 18 - May 20

- HCP's 'Enchanted April' at the Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees begin at 2:30 p.m. Call: 526-8084 for reservations.

Saturday, May 12

- Macon County Rabies Clinics at the Highlands Conference Center from 1-2:30 p.m. and at the Scaly Mountain Post Office from 3-4 p.m., both with Dr. Amy Patterson. The cost is \$5 per pet, cash only, no checks. Please keep pets in vehicle, on leashes or in carriers. All dogs, cats and ferrets over 4 months old must be vaccinated.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 8 mile-hike from Timber Ridge to Beech Gap in the Standing Indian area. Meet at Westgate Plaza (opposite Burger King) at 9 a.m. Drive 35 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader Bill Van Horn, 369-1983

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to moderate hike to 80-foot high Kings Creek Falls and Spoonauger Falls. The elevation change is

Art League of Highlands to sponsor 'Young at Art' April 30



Sara McKee, art teacher at Hampton School, gives encouragement to Jessie Sellers and David Lambert (both age 3) on their original modern art. Sara will be the tour guide through the "Young at Art" exhibit at the Cashiers Library. The Art League of Highlands program is April 30 at 1 p.m. A light lunch will be served at noon (no charge) prior to the program in which she will speak about fostering creativity in children.

moderate. Meet at Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10 a.m. Drive 30 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader s, Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079.

Monday, May 14

- The Rotary Club of Highlands 19th annual Golf Tournament will be held this year at Trillium, with a shotgun start at noon, followed by a cocktail buffet and awards ceremony. Get together a foursome and sign up for an afternoon of golf and good fun. 100% of the money raised by this annual event is used to fund local projects and community needs. Registration for individual players is \$125. Sign up sheets are available from Rotary member Tony Potts at Macon Bank in Highlands. Call this year's Rotary golf chairman Bill Futral at (828) 526-8645 for further information.

Friday-Sunday May 17-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.

Thursday, May 17

- Book signing at Cyrano's Book Shop, at 390 Main Street from 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

Friday, May 18

- Book signing at Cyrano's Book Shop, at 390

Main Street from 1-3 p.m. Rob Neufeld
"A Popular History of Western North Carolina -- Mountains, Heroes & Hootniggers

Saturday, May 19

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

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3-mile moderate-to-strenuous hike to three little-known waterfalls on Middlecreek (near Scaly Mountain community) - The trail is primitive and steep and can be muddy, but the falls are gorgeous. Meet at the Ski Scaly parking lot at 10 a.m. Drive 4-miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy shoes with good tread. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader Virginia Talbot, 526-4904.

Sunday, May 20

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.5 mile hike with very little elevation change at the Highlands biological station. In Franklin, meet at the Bi-Lo center at 2 p.m. Drive 50 miles round trip. If coming from Highlands or Cashiers, call leader for alternate meeting place. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820.

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.

Ruby Cinemas

Hwy. 441, Franklin
524-2076

Playing April 27-May 4

NEXT rated PG-13

Fri: (4:15), 7:05, 9:15
Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:15), 7:05, 9:15
Mon - Thurs: (4:15), 7:05

AMAZING GRACE rated PG

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

TMNT rated PG

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

THE REAPING rated R

Fri: 7:20, 9:20
Sat & Sun: 7:20, 9:20
Mon - Thurs: 7:20

DISTURBIA 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

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from pg 17

And of what is Jesus intolerant? In Mark 6:11, He says that it will be more tolerable for a perverse, evil, depraved city of people than for those who reject Him. It is more tolerable for vile offenders who understand they can not be good enough, than for those who reject His compassion and mercy and try to hold onto their flimsy and tattered "goodness" as a means of worthiness.

Through Jesus all have the same chance for being in Paradise. Now that is tolerance. Of course, that tolerance came at a precious price: His own death as a substitute for ours. How good is good enough to be granted intimacy with the perfect, all powerful Creator of everything? If you are like me, you are well aware of the selfish and rebellious nature that keeps us from being good enough. If you're tired of playing *Press Your Luck* with your eternal destination, I'll ask you as I asked my friend, have you considered Jesus?

• REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS •

HIGHLANDS AREA PROPERTY TRANSFERS

March 1 through April 19

PIN | GRANTEE | DESCRIPTION | DATE | PRICE | GRANTOR

• 0517614 | BEE, JOHN M, 11 CYPRESS LANE JACKSON, MS 39211 | UNIT 2, 40 LAURELWOOD CT | 03-07-07 | \$535,000. | THOMAS, GEORGE E

• 0501298 | BUILDING EXCHANGE CO, 915 WILSHIRE BLVD SUITE 2, LOS ANGELES, CA 90017 | VILLA 6 HFCC | 03-08-07 | \$400,000. | SMALL, ANN G & GRANT

• 0502494 | HIGHLAND VIEWS LLC, 44 NORTH PINE CIRCLE, BELLAIR, FL 33756 | 3702 CASHIERS RD | 03-09-07 | \$460,000. | WAGNER, LLOYD W JR & DEBRAL

• 0526443 | HOUSTON, CHARLES BOBBY & SAMMI BOX 608 HIGHLANDS, NC 28741 | FOREST TRAIL LOT 81 COLD SPRINGS | 03-09-07 | \$120,000. | BRUKER, WILLIAM C JR & MERRITT B

• 0501653 | COPELAND, JOHNA, 1070 GREEN WAY, ATLANTA, GA 30350 | 54 SPRUCE LN, PARCEL 3 & PT OF 2 HFCC | 03-15-07 | \$305,000. | DECKMAN, JOSEPH T & KAY C

• 0512928 | DECKMAN, JOE T, 1473 BAYTOWNE AVENUE E, DESTIN, FL | 10 BONNEVISTA RD, LOT 29 BLK A SEC II HFCC | 03-15-07 | \$950,000. | MAVAR, NICK JR & NANCY

• 0549118 | EDWARDS FARM INVESTMENTS LLC, PO BOX 1722, HIGHLANDS, NC 28741 | OFF S R 1608 | 03-15-07 | \$7,500. | SUZUKI, HOWARD K TRUSTEE SUZUKI, TETSUKO F TRUSTEE

• 0502747 | HIGHLAND VIEWS LLC, 44 NORTH PINE CIRCLE, BELLAIR, FL 33756 | HWY. 64E | 03-16-07 | \$1,675,000. | OLD HEMLOCK COVE DEVELOPMENT

• 0516293 | BALLARD, ANNE MCCARY, 2637 PEACHTREE ROAD NE ATLANTA, GA 30305 | 1277 HIGHGATE RD, LOT 19 BENCHMARK SUB | 03-16-07 | \$1,585,000. | MERRY, FINLEY H & CHARLOTTE CARTER

• 0517066 | HATFIELD, ROBERT N, 6000 LAKE FORREST DR, ATLANTA, GA 30328 | LOT 248 & 248A CULLASAJA CLUB | 03-19-07 | \$1,485,000. | DOGWOOD HOMES LLC

• 0505014 | MERRY, FINLEY H, 2222 CUMMING RD, AUGUSTA, GA 30904 | 973 SKY LAKE DR, LOT A BLK B HLDS FALLS | 03-22-07 | \$400,000. | STONE, SHIRLEY J TRUSTEE

• 0504996 | TURNER, LUTHER S, 4188 HORSE COVE RD, HIGHLANDS, NC 28741 | LOT 38 RUSTIC FALLS | 03-26-07 | \$73,500. | BLACK, JOE

• 0512687 | YAPOR, IRMA G, PO BOX 686, WINDERMERE, FL 34786 | HARBISON ORCHARD RD, HWY. US 28 | 03-28-07 | \$52,000.

| OUSLEY, CHRISTINE & VETTER, TERENCE K

• 0503136 | WELLS, H CHRISTY, 336 STRADLEIGH RD, WILMINGTON, NC 28403 | 1613 CLEAR CREEK RD | 03-29-07 | \$265,000. | RICHARDSON, NORMAN H & JANET

• 0502996 | BUNNELL, BRUCE T, 313 CORNET LANE HIGHLANDS, NC 28741 | CORNET LN, LOT 12 FRANK UDONN PROP | 04-02-07 | \$18,000. | BUNNELL, BRIAN B & MARTHA

• 0514650 | WEBER, LAWRENCE R, 4867 OLDE VILLAGE COURT, ATLANTA, GA 30338 | 1630 UPPER DV, LOT 27 BL F SEC II HIGHLANDS FALLS | 04-03-07 | \$500,000. | MAXWELL, GEORGE M & VIRGINIA T

• 0517124 | HOPKINS, GEORGE T, 156 HICKS RD, HIGHLANDS, NC 28741 | LOT 286A CULLASAJA CLUB | 04-04-07 | \$150,000. | JOHNSON, CHARLES TRUSTEE DIAL, JOHN TRUSTEE

• 0503215 | GLEIM, BARRY L, 5268 7TH GREEN DR, HOLLYWOOD, SC 29449 | UNIT 7 SEC C HAWKS NEST VILLAGE | 04-05-07 | \$82,000. | SBROCCO, THOMAS

• 0503380 | HIRSCHY, ROGER W, 1260 COUNTRY CLUB OAKS CIR, ORLANDO, FL 32804 | 2024 MAGNOLIA DR, LOT 116 SEC G WILDCAT CLIFFS | 04-05-07 | \$900,000. | CORNELL, WILLIAM E & MELBAL

• 0615626 | THREE FORKS PROPERTIES OF MACON, 37 HIGH HOLLY RD SCALY MTN, NC 28775 | ON HWY 106, TRACT 4 MARTHA MAGRUDER PROP | 03-01-07 | \$75,000. | MAGRUDER, JOSEPH PALMER & MARION H

• 0633567 | BAILEY CREEK LLC, 820 NORTH BLVD, BATON ROUGE, LA 70802 | BUCK KNOB RD, OFF SR 1622 | 03-02-07 | \$575,000. | MCEWEN, LOUISE R & BRIAN ALAN

• 0611982 | FISHER, KURT F, P O BOX 155, 76 LITTLE CREEK TRAI SCALY MTN, NC 28775 | ON RD 1623 | 04-03-07 | \$90,000. | MOORE, JERE E & SINGER, ARTHUR G IV

• 0600489 | NILSSON, BO E, 268 RUMSON RD, ATLANTA, GA 30305 | 984 KING GAP RD, LOT 62 KING MTN | 04-12-07 | \$900,000. | JAMES, AMELIA MANNING TRU & JAMES, CURTIS

• 0545109 | KEADLE, SANDRA M, 2511 BARNESVILLE HWY, THOMASTON, GA 30286 | 43 VILLAGE WALK, UNIT 1 | 03-16-07 | \$925,000. | ALLEN, PATRICIA A & RONALD G

• 1443249 | ASKEW, ANTHONY TATE, 6725 BEST FRIEND RD NORCROSS, GA 30071 | 144 PICKLESIMER RD, HWY 28 | 03-20-07

| \$170,000. | ASKEW, PETER M & SARA WHEELER

• 1435434 | ROBERTSON, WILLIAM CRAIG JR, 800 GENTRY RD LEXINGTON, KY 40509 | 222 RAOUL RD, LOT 22B MIRROR LAKE | 03-27-07 | \$432,500. | WEAVER, JULIE P & DEWEY M

• 0500914 | OSWALD, KATHERINE ANNE, 856 TUCKER RD, MACON, GA 31210 | 1601 HIGHLANDS MOUNTAIN CLB, UNIT 1602 COND III | 03-30-07 | \$305,000. | BARNES, STUART MARSHALL & MARGARET ANN

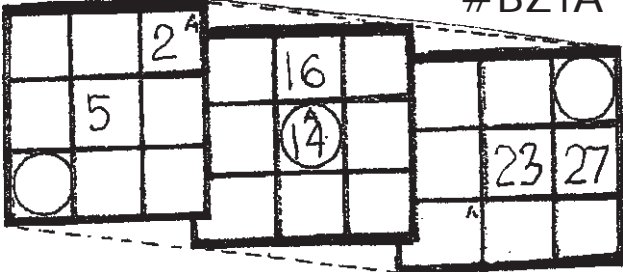
• 0504774 | HOPKINS, JOHN DAVID TRUSTEE, 2660 PEACHTREE NW #25-C, ATLANTA, GA 30305 | MOOREWOOD CIR, LOT 98APH II SASSAFRAS KNOB | 04-02-07 | \$645,000. | STAPLES, WILLIAM C

• 0504971 | STAPLES, WILLIAM C, 4024 KNOLLWOOD DRIVE, BIRMINGHAM, AL 35243 | 531 MOOREWOOD CIR, LOT 96A SASSAFRAS KNOB | 04-02-07 | \$1,950,000. | MAFFETT, BEATY SMITH TRUS SMITH, MARTHA DALE TRUSTE

• 0504118 | LEEDS, RYAN G, 980 NORTH FEDERAL HWY, BOCA RATON, FL 33432 | 59 PERQUIN RD, LOT 18 H CULL HGTS | 04-10-07 | \$160,000. | FOREHAND, SUSAN

• 1448969 | KLICH, PETER J, 10 DOGWOOD TRAIL SUITE A, DEBARY, FL 32713 | A C HOLT SUBD | 04-10-07 | \$70,000. | TRAGESSER, LARRY E & KATHLEEN D

PseudoCube[®] #BZ1A



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.

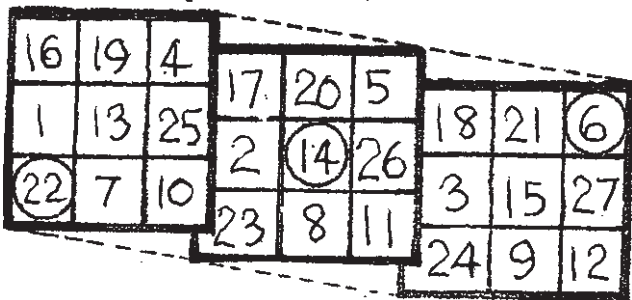
THE CHALLENGE:

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 AZ1A in the April 19 paper



• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of April 18-25. Only the names of persons arrested or public officials have been used.

April 18

- At 1:50 p.m., a motorist on S. 4th Street was issued a parking ticket.
- At 1:55 p.m., a motorist on S. 4th Street was issued a parking ticket.

April 21

- Officers responded to the call of an open door at a house on Bruner Lane. A glass of water was in one room and toiletries in the bathroom. Officers secured the home when they left.

April 23

- At 10:30 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at U.S. 64 east and Foreman Road.
- During the week officers issued 2 warning tickets and responded to 4 alarms.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the weeks of April 18-25.

April 18

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

medical call at a residence on Old Orchard Road where someone had fallen. The victim was taken to the hospital.

April 19

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

- The dept. responded to a call fire on Brushy Face. It was a controlled burn.

April 21

- The dept. responded to a brush fire on N.C. 106. The fire burned 1 1/2 acres. The cause is unknown.

April 23

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

April 24

- The dept. responded to an alarm at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. It was due to a malfunctioning switch.

April 25

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

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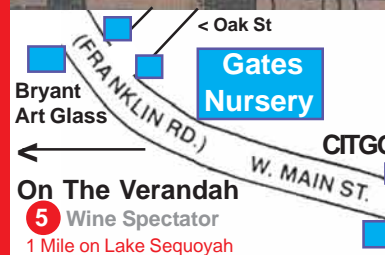
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MAIN STREET INN
DINNER BUFFET
NEW WINE LIST

Dining, Shopping, Real Estate

DINING

- 1 Cyprus
- 2 Log Cabin
- 3 Madison's
- 4 Main St. Inn
- 5 On Verandah
- 6 Paoletti
- 7 Pescado's
- 8 SportsPage
- 9 Wolfgang's

Shopping

- 1 Acorns
- 2 AnnaWear
- 3 Bear Mt. Outfit.
- 4 Dry Sink
- 5 Raspberry Fizz
- 6 Silver Eagle
- 7 Stone Lantern
- 8 Village Kids
- 9 Wholesale Down

Real Estate

- 1 Century 21
 - 2 Chambers
 - 3 Country Club
 - 4 Meadows Mtn.
 - 5 Schiffli Realty
- Galleries**
- 1 Mirror Lake
 - 2 Shiraz Rugs
 - 3 Tino Gallery

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