

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 5, Number 9

PDF Version – www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, March 1, 2007

On-going

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

• Beginner Classical Yoga Group meets On Mondays, 5:45-7 p.m. at Highlands Yoga and Wellness, 464 Carolina Way. Mats and blankets provided. Call 526-8880.

• Yoga Classes at the Rec Park. Mondays and Wednesdays. Bring your mat. \$7 per person per class or \$50/month.

• 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.

• Every Friday, a Grief Support Group every 10-12 at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Please contact Helen Moore 526-0727 or Martha Porter at 787-1463.

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

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

Every Tuesday

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

• Women's Bible Study, Beth Moore's study of Daniel at Community Bible Church Fellowship Hall. All ladies invited. Call the church at 526-4685 for book.

Friday & Saturday, March 2-3

• Job Fair for Old Edwards Inn & Spa Hospitality Group at 21 Church Street Conference Center. 12-4 p.m. Friday and 9-1 on Saturday. Want enthusiastic people who want to be part of a winning team. For details, see ad on page 9

Fri., Sat., & Sun., March 2-4

• "Caught in the Villian's Web," an old-fashioned melodrama by the Highlands Community Players, evenings 7:30 p.m., Sunday matinee 2:30 p.m. Call 526-8084 for reservations. Tickets are \$15.

Friday, March 2

• The Highlands Brownies will have Girl Scout Cookie booths at Macon Bank and First Citizen's Bank from 2-3 p.m.. Cookies are \$3.50 per box.

• Highlands Bolivian Mission Group — Taco Dinner, Friday 5- 8:30 p.m. at the Highlands Rec Park \$7.50 at the door

Saturday, March 3

• An open-mic discussion at 2 p.m. at the Rec Park to discuss what we can do as citizens about our escalating property taxes. Call Robin at 526-9792.

Sunday, March 4

• Western Carolina University music department faculty showcase at 4 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church. It's free.

Tuesday, March 6

• HIARPT's Richard Florida's, The Flight of the Creative Class. 10 a.m. at the Highlands Civic Center. Lunch will follow at 11:30 for those wishing to attend. All are welcome. Contact Creighton Peden at cphi2@verizon.net.

March 6

• Episcopal Church Stations of the Cross – 5 p.m.; Soup & Salad – 5:30 p.m.; Speaker the Rev. Jim Yeary – 6 p.m. "Stewardship of Self." All are invited.

BOE names new board member

By Susanna Forrester
Reporter

The Macon County Board of Education swore in a new member at its Feb. 26 meeting.

Roberta Swank was chosen to replace board member Guy Gooder following his resignation on

Feb. 21. The Board discussed the replacement of Gooder at their Feb. 23 retreat at the Dillard House along with school board attorney John Henning Jr.

"Members of our board participated in a retreat to revisit district goals, review performance

data, set priorities for the system, and confirm short term and long range facility needs," said Superintendent Dan Brigman. "The attorney briefed the board on the process for naming a new member to the Board. The other candi-

•See BOARD page 7

TB changes ETJ zones

The planning board made recommendations concerning zoning designations in the ETJ and property owners made their wishes clear, but in the end the Town Board did what it thought best and changed several B5, R2 and R4 areas in question to R1-ETJ.

"Several of the concerns dealing with zones involving uses will be addressed by the ordinance amendments we will hear later tonight," said Mayor Don Mullen. Mainly the grandfathering of non-conforming uses and the rebuilding of buildings housing non-conforming uses — see story "Town OKs changes to ordinances" on page 1.

Some areas were ruled on at the Feb. 28 Town Board meeting because they were marked wrong on the proposed ETJ map adopted in January and had to be re-advertised and re-considered.

Other areas considered were brought up by homeowners over the past month. Larry Rogers whose property is on Hicks Road

•See ETJ page 21

Ambassadors yuck it up on court



The Harlem Ambassadors stand over a wounded Highlands Hometown Hero during their exhibition contest Tuesday night at the Highlands School gym. The Ambassadors won handily 74-62 after spotting the Heroes 44 points in the 3rd quarter. The score was the least important issue, as the community banded together for a night of laughter and high fives with a little basketball mixed in.

Photo by Chris Potts

TB OKs changes to ordinances

The town has finally settled on definitions and ordinance amendments concerning clustering, non-conforming uses and the most recent issue — structures on vacant land in the ETJ. They are set for a public hearing April 4 to hear public comment.

Following the Planning Board's hard work Monday night, commissioners agreed to amend the clustering amendment – a matter that has raised legal questions for the town recently.

"Part of the confusion in defining clustering has been the unclear and sometimes conflicting provisions in both the subdivision and zoning ordinances," said Interim Zoning Administrator Richard Betz. He said "clustering" option belongs in the subdivision ordinance, not the zoning ordinance since it's a tool for subdividing property but the zoning ordinance should note exceptions and refer to the main provision in the subdivision ordinance.

Consequently, the subdivision ordinance now addresses clustering.

Specifically: clustering is no longer allowed in the B3 zone — only in residential zones; setbacks are five feet from the property line of another lot in the cluster subdivision and not less than 100 feet from the right-of-way of any street other than a street in the cluster development; minimum lot sizes don't apply except that the number of clustered lots can't exceed

•See ORDINANCES page 12

Gantenbeins plead not-guilty to charges

Larry Gantenbein, 60, and his son Michael, 35, were arraigned in the Covington, LA, St. Tamma-

Weekend Weather:



ny Parish courtroom of Judge Reggie Badeaux, Monday, Feb. 26.

Both men plead not-guilty to charges of possession with intent to distribute, manufacture and cultivate marijuana.

Larry Gantenbein's attorney, Ed LeBlanc of Covington, LA, said he filed a discovery motion and is now waiting for a response from the state. "That can take from one

month to a year," he said.

An arraignment is the hearing in which a person charged with a crime is arraigned in his or her first appearance before a judge during which all preliminaries are taken care of.

On Jan. 5, at 3:53 p.m., while en route from Texas to Alabama the Gantenbein's vehicle was

•See GANTENBEINS page 8

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

Tax policy and rural land

By Susan Erwin
Contributor

The recent tax revaluations have many people worried, not just about their own tax bill, which is plenty to worry about when your property value suddenly increases three-fold, but also about the impact such evaluation will have on the future of our lands and environment.

Some typical examples: a family with several hundred acres of land that they have owned for decades and do not want to sell had their evaluation go from \$800,000 to \$2.5 million. They are afraid they may have to sell due to high taxes. A friend with a little piece on Nantahala Lake, where they've always gone camping, thinks they will have to sell because they can't justify the expense. Two adjoining properties, part of an old family farm, are owned by cousins; one cousin lets the cousin who still farms use her piece. Will she still be able to do that when her evaluation has gone from \$150,000 to \$512,000? If you plan to sell your land, these property values may be good news, but for all of us who don't, who actually think of our land as home, where we will live our entire lives and then pass it on, this is very bad news.

Right away, I want to state that the inflated revaluations are not the fault of the County Commissioners. The county is required by law to do these revaluations, and NC law requires that land be assessed at full market value. The commissioners have said that they may be able to lower the tax rate — the amount you pay in taxes per dollar value of the land — so that taxes may not go up in proportion to the revaluation. It would have been prudent of them to make this very clear before the revaluations went out; they could have lessened the blow. But even with a lower millage rate, I think we can all expect our tax bills to be appreciably higher and to see people selling land for development that they would not have otherwise, and loss of yet more rural land.

So where is the fault and what can we do about it?

I think the biggest fault is in the perception that the "highest and best use" of land is as much development as you can get on it. This is obviously a self-defeating, short term proposition. If all that those big mountaintop homes have to look at is other big mountain top

• See FORUM page 20

Highlanders have a "giving" nature

Dear Editor,

Highlands is truly a "giving" community and too frequently all we hear is bad.

I have been a summer resident of Highlands for 26 years and I am also fortunate to have a God-given talent as a master wood-carver. Through activities at my church, First Presbyterian here and in Ocala, FL, I have become familiar with the Celtic or the ringed cross.

This is the adapted symbol of the Presbyterian church. Last year, I carved many crosses for ministers and church members and was asked to make a large hand-carved cross for the sanctuary in my church in Ocala. Needing wood, my search led me to the wood-lot owned by Tommy Chambers on Flat Mountain Road. Mr. Chambers builds custom log homes and cuts logs for the construction. He didn't have what I needed at the wood-lot so he interrupted his work and guided me to his work site where he cuts his logs. I chose a magnificent cherry tree from which I requested an 8-ft. long by 8-inch wide by 3-inch deep piece. Expecting this to cost me a pretty penny, I asked



what would be the cost? He replied, "Nothing, I like to do things for a church."

The cross now hangs in the contemporary sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church in Ocala. Not only is it a daily reminder of Christ's eternal and undying love for all of us, but a reflection of the generosity of one of Highlands' many giving people. Thank you, Tommy.

Bill Cochran
Highlands & Ocala

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

"Our Community Service - A Free Local Newspaper"

Member N.C. Press Association

FREE every Thursday; circulation 5,000; 100 distribution points

Toll Free FAX: 866-212-8913 • (828) 526-0782

Email: HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor - Kim Lewicki

Reporter - Susanna Hearn

Copy Editor- Tom Merchant

Cartoonist - Karen Hawk

Circulation & Digital Media

Jim Lewicki



Adobe PDF version at www.HighlandsInfo.com

265 Oak St.; P.O. Box 2703, Highlands, N.C., 28741

All Rights Reserved. No articles, photos, illustrations, advertisements or design elements may be used without permission from the publisher.

• LETTERS •

A few observations

Dear Editor,

Could I be the only person who thinks pine straw is the most unattractive, maybe the ugliest natural material in the world? Surely we all agree that it does not match flowers, plants and trees in beauty. Yet it arrives in Highlands by the truck load. Aside from the reality that much of it is buggy, it is awful looking.

Why then is much of the roadside covered in it? If one looks beneath the pine straw there is raw dirt. What happened to the plants? Why take out the natural green cover and replace it with brown stuff?

The only sights that match the straw covered roadsides in ugliness are the ruined rhododendrons, laurel, young trees and branches which have had their new growth mangled. Why would this happen to our beautiful landscape? What could possibly prompt a town to allow this to happen? If DOT employees need to work they could be put to excellent use by inspecting construction sites. It has been said that we don't have enough employees to check every site, but there seem to be a bunch of people doing more harm than good who are employed by the state.

The other offensive sights are the dirt filled culverts — some that have been obstructed so long they have now got weeds growing in them. The remedy for this problem is often to dig them out. Of course, this "solution" leaves loose dirt, which again fills the culverts or silts the streams. There used to be a number of lovely streams and creeks around Highlands which are gradually disappearing. What happened to them?

There is an important issue facing our plateau right now: This challenge is filling our zoning and planning position. Our town needs someone with knowledge and sensitivity about preventing blights on the landscape. This person needs foresight and wisdom to guide our town before mistakes are made in future development and land disturbance.

If I were trying to sell someone property here I do not think a buyer would be impressed. Nobody wants anything ugly. It is the natural Highlands that has attracted homeowners and tourists all along. Thank you for reading this

Glenda Bell
Highlands

• See LETTERS page 3

• OBITUARIES •

Sherman (Bill) William Crane

Sherman (Bill) William Crane, age 53, of Pickens, S.C., formerly of Highlands, died Monday, February 19, 2007 at his residence. He was a native of Macon County, a son of Estelle Talley Crane of Highlands, NC and the late James E. Crane.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by a son, William Douglas Crane of Wewahitchka, FL; two sisters, Marie Davis Bowie and husband, Henry of Pickens, SC and Sandra Elaine Baty and husband Roger of Highlands, NC; three brothers, John Crane and wife Carolyn of Cumming, GA, Tom Crane and wife Teresa of Pickens, SC and Michael Crane of Highlands, NC; three grandchildren.

He is also survived by a special friend and caregiver Ms. Barrie Lawrence. He was preceded in death by a brother, Jim Crane.

Funeral services were held Thursday, February 22 at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Bryant Funeral Home in Highlands, with Rev. John Parker officiating. Burial was at the Scaly Mountain Methodist Cemetery. Pallbearers were Steve Smith, Tony Southerland, Billy Catlett, Roger Baty, Gerald Hedden and Jimmy Baty.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Clyde D. Evers

Clyde D. Evers, age 87, of Sapphire, N.C. died Monday, February 19, 2007 at a Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. He was born in Fulton County, OH, the son of the late William and Daisy Griffin Evers. He was a WWII Veteran of the U.S. Navy. He had his own heating and air-conditioning business. He was a former board member of Fairfield-Sapphire Valley Home Owners Association and was a member of Cashiers Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife of 21 years, Virginia Merrell Evers; four daughters, one son, two step-children, several grandchildren, great-grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Friday, February 23, 2007 at 10 a.m. at Cashiers Baptist church. Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

• BIRTHS •



Alisha Tam Luu

Alisha Tam Luu was born to proud parents Leon Luu & Lily Nguyen, owners of Pro Nails on Main Street, Feb. 12, 2007 in Atlanta. Alisha was six pounds 10 ounces and 19 inches long.

... LETTERS continued from page 2

Thank God for good neighbors & Highlands volunteer fire & rescue dept.

Dear Editor,

During the early morning of Ash Wednesday, an unusual electrical storm passed over Highlands and lightning struck my house.

My neighbor, Jeff Zahner was awakened by the noise. Upon seeing the flames of my burning house, he called 9-1-1 and ran from his house to see if he could do anything before the arrival of

the fire department.

When he saw my car in the driveway, he realized I had returned from my trip earlier than expected and that I was in the house! His persistent beating on the front door finally raised me from a deep sleep. (I didn't hear the thunder or the lightning strike.) He then led me to a safe place. Smoke had already filled the house.

Our trusty and taken-for-granted firemen arrived and extinguished the fire in 20 minutes. The fire was contained in the playroom area and the main part of the house was saved from the flames. Thankfulness and a heart full of gratitude go out to the thankless but professional job led by our fire chief, Popcorn. God bless all of them!

My deepest gratitude goes out to these young men. Please, when you see a

fireman, give him a hug. The same goes to Jeff Zahner, of Chatooga Gardens in Cashiers. The best neighbor on the mountain.

Oh, by the way, my smoke alarm didn't go off and I had replaced the battery six months ago.

Dollie Swanson
Highlands

• See LETTERS page 21

The Chambers Agency, REALTORS



info@chambersagency.net
www.chambersagency.net

Want a Highlands home of your own?

Call The Chambers Agency, REALTORS

Want a lot, parcel or acreage in the Highlands area?

Call The Chambers Agency, REALTORS

Want a vacation rental in the mountains?

Call The Chambers Agency, REALTORS

VACATION RENTALS

You can check home availability and **BOOK ONLINE** with our secure server.

FOR SALE – You can read important facts and information on our listings – contact us and we can send you info on ANY listing. **Call 526-3717 • 401 N. Fifth Street**

Evenings at



AT OLD EDWARDS INN

A Great Way To Spend Your Winter Nights

Receive 20% Off

All Treatments Scheduled from

6pm – 8pm ~ Monday thru Thursday

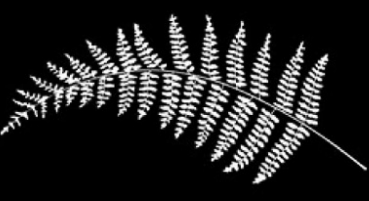
Guests who cancel with less than 12 hours notice or fail to show for an appointment will be charged the full treatment price. A credit card number is required at the time of booking. Reschedule of appointment with less than 12 hours notice will be charged 50% of treatment. Limited time only and promotion subject to change.

445 MAIN STREET, HIGHLANDS, NC 28741

PHONE 828.526.9887 FAX 828.787.2596

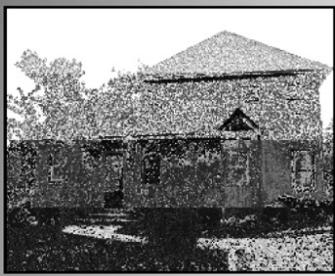
WWW.OLDEDWARDSINN.COM

SPA@OLDEDWARDSINN.COM

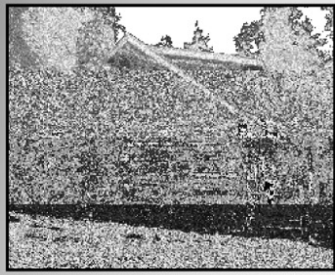


MEADOWS

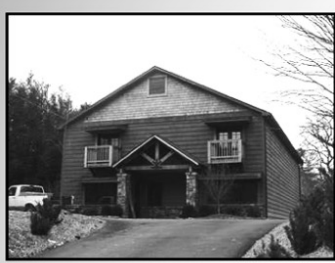
MOUNTAIN REALTY




This new rustic mountain home offers 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, and high end finishes throughout. Beautiful wide plank floors, old world stucco wall finish, huge master suite with granite vanities, jetted tub, heated tile floors and walk in tile shower. The great room offers a vaulted and beamed ceiling, massive stone fireplace, wet bar, powder room and access to the wrap around deck that is vaulted, screen and presents a second fireplace for entertaining. Norton Creek frontage mountain views and private gated access. \$795,000



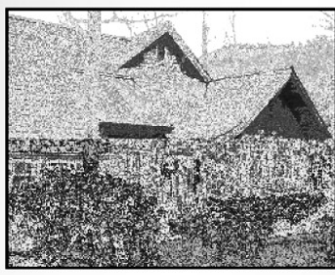
True cabin made of hand-hewn logs, real chinking, and reclaimed cedar shakes. Stone fireplace, screened in "sleeping porch", charming front porch with twig railing. Fully furnished down to linens, all furnishing are original collector pieces. No reproductions. Adirondack hickory furniture, "tramp" art, Native American rugs and accessories. Stairs and railed pathways to the Walkingstick Falls and trout filled swimming hole just below the home. \$799,900




Great commercial building located between the Civic Center and Elephant's Foot Antiques. The main level could be one or two shops/offices each with a bath and the upstairs could be two apartments. The two upstairs apartments have stud walls and stubbing for a two bedrooms, two baths each. Both have separate private entrances. Plenty of parking for business owners & tenants in the back and for customers in the front. \$895,000



A rare in-town find. Great setting on Mirror Lake with sounds from the water flowing over the dam. This can be a great project for someone wanting a magnificent water front home on the lake. You can fish from your back deck or launch a canoe from the edge of the yard. All this home needs is your personal touch. \$595,000



Beautiful Highlands Cove Cottage. Best one of all the Highlands Cove Cottages! Sitting at the very top and offering huge views, great privacy, audio and video upgrades! Granite throughout kitchen and baths, European styled vessel sink in powder room, deck with fireplace. One car carport with a storage room. These quality cottages have been built by Schmitt Building Contractors. \$1,100,000



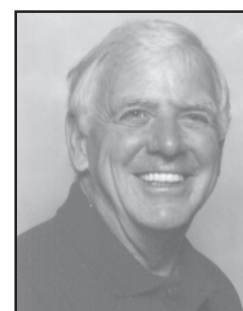
This 3 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath home in Highlands Falls Country Club is nestled onto a wooded lot. Still under construction, it boasts huge cathedral ceilings, stone faced, wood burning fireplaces, and a gently rolling lot. Granite surfaces throughout, travertine tile, and custom cabinetry. The covered deck has a fireplace and a great view of Shor-toff Mountain. Two car carport and plenty of privacy. Scheduled for completion in Spring of 2007. \$1,095,000

450 N. 4th Street - Highlands, NC 28741
828-526-1717 866-526-3558 Toll Free
Visit our NEW website: www.meadowsmtnrealty.com

• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

‘Yeah Shortie, I’m talkin’ to you!’ (Warning: tacky toilet stuff)

No, no, no, this is not a story about Commissioner Hank Ross....but maybe it could be. This is, instead, an incredible story about a genius inventor who obviously has spent a great deal of time hanging around men’s restrooms. Because I use the word genius, you should have already ruled out George Bush. Go ahead, take a guess. No, not Senator Mark Foley but that’s a good answer. OK, do you give up?



Fred Wooldridge

•
**Feedback
 is encouraged!
 email:**

I know I have promised askfredanything@aol.com a small segment of Highlanders not to write toilet humor, but talking urinal cakes is too good to pass up. Just in case you’ve been living in Mountain City or some other dumb place or maybe you’re just too lazy to pick up an out-of-town paper, allow me to explain what a talking urinal cake is. I guess I should also explain what a non-talking urinal cake is first just in case there’s a woman Highlander out there who has never visited a men’s room.

Normally, a urinal cake is a slow dissolving, deodorizing and sanitizing cake incased inside a plastic cage placed in the bottom of a urinal. Sadam Hussein was reincarnated as a urinal cake. It’s activated by warm fluid. Got the picture? If not, DUH, just write and I’ll send 8 X 10 photos of how I use mine.

When activated, the talking urinal cake triggers a small digital player that sends a message. I am not making this up. The cakes are currently being used in bar restrooms in New Mexico to warn customers they may have had too much to drink. Here’s an example. “Hello and thank you for visiting the Lucky Boy bar. If you’re getting ready to leave and have had too much to drink, consider taking a taxi. An arrest for drunk driving could ruin the rest of your life.” Is this awesome, or what? Kudos to the inventor.

There is no limit to the messages that can be put into these cakes. My mind is swimming with ideas. Just for fun, how about this? “Hey, shorty; (pause) Yeah you....don’t be looking around ‘cause I’m talking to you. Tell me that’s not it. I’ve seen bigger noses than that; in fact, your nose is bigger. Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha....wait....help....take your hands off me. Ahhhh.”

We could put them in bank restrooms. “Hello, and welcome to ABC

Bank and Trust. I know your teller has told you there is a substantial penalty for early withdrawal, but in your case we will make an exception. You poor thing. Please except our sympathies.”

How about this for hotel bars. “Whoa! Hel-loooo there big boy. My name is Angie and I am in room 1015. I would certainly like to meet you so why don’t you dust off one of those musty hundred dollar bills in your wallet and swing by my room.”

On a more serious note, (ha) we could put talking urinal cakes in church restrooms. The cakes would play inspirational music like that old favorite “Praise Be, I am Finally Free.” Here’s another good one. “Point Me in the Right Direction.” Or how about “Place Your Hands Upon Thee.” There is no limit to spiritual urinal songs that could be played. My favorite is “Are You Hangin’ Out with Judas?”

I guess by this point you gals out there are getting a little down in the dumps ‘cause us guys are having all the fun in the restroom. Well, fear not because I have found something for the lady folk. Are you sitting down? (Ha, again,) I’m talkin’ toilet paper for split-tails that actually talks.

Well, the paper doesn’t talk but there’s a digital player in the roller that is activated when you pull off some paper. This is more better because you get special paper with the roller. The George Bush toilet paper is my favorite. His smiling image is on each every sheet. When you pull the paper, George says, “Let me clear the air right now, you are doing a great job.” Was he talking about Rumsfeld or Mayor Mullen?

So don’t get caught with your pants down. Order your talking urinal cakes, talking toilet rolls and George Bush toilet paper today. As our beloved president once said, “Remember, the job is not complete until the paperwork is done.”

Special notice and disclaimer: Hank Ross does not hang out in men’s restrooms and he did not invent the talking urinal cake.

*Read Fred’s column while you are away at:

<http://www.highlandsinfo.com/newspaperdownload.htm>

School board takes care of business Monday night

By **Susanna Forrester**
Reporter

The Macon County Board of Education honored students, including several Highlands School students, and a board member for achievements in education at its Tuesday, Feb. 26 meeting.

Winning in the "local" category of the Young Authors Writing Contest sponsored by the N.C. Reading Association were Highlands School students Ellie Cate Beavers, Isaac Beavers, and Cara Hedden. Winning in the "state" category were teacher Michelle Wilson Lane, Marlee McCall, and Colin Jeffrey Weller.

The contest encourages students to write in poetry or prose, fiction or nonfiction. The theme of this year's contest was "Adventures and Discoveries." Writers could address something they discovered about themselves or someone in their lives, a memorable adventure in real life or by a book character, or a contribution of an explorer or inventor that has had an impact on local or global society, now or in the future.

The winning authors will be honored again on March 8 at the Western Mountains Reading Council meeting.

Board member Tommy Cabe was recognized for successfully completing the North Carolina School Boards Association Academy for School Boardmanship during the 2005-06 school year and earning a certificate of achievement.

"Being a Board member is not an easy task," said school superintendent Dan Brigman as he recognized Cabe. "We don't sit idle without training."

Board members also approved the 2007-08 school calendar for Franklin, Highlands, and Nantahala.

For Highlands, the first day of school will be Aug. 27, and the last day will be June 6. Spring break is set for the week of April 21.

According to N.C. law, the first day of class can't begin prior to Aug. 25; the last day of class can't occur after June 10; there must be 180 school days and 1,000 hours of



Pictured are board member Susie McCoy, Superintendent Dan Brigman and winning students Tyler West, Colin Jeffrey Weller, Matthew Bishop, Marlee McCall, Emilee Curtis, Kyler Nicole Payne, Tom Henritze, Ellie Cate Beavers, Isaac Beavers, Russell Helma, Ivy Hawkins, Kendall Taylor, Michelle Wilson Lane, Elizabeth Birolin, Charles Daniel Medlock, Katrina Harris, Cara Hedden

instruction; the calendar must include 10 annual leave days, 11 holidays and 15 teacher work days.

Board members decided make-up days for the current school year will be June 8 and Memorial Day which will be a half day. They approved a new policy for missed days due to inclement weather that will require a half-day on the following Saturday if school is canceled during the week.

A meningococcal immunization was approved for high school seniors who may be going on to college. Teenagers and college students are at risk for meningococcal disease compared to the general population accounting for nearly 30% of all U.S. cases. It can often be misdiagnosed as something less serious because early symptoms like high fevers, severe headache, nausea, vomiting and stiff neck are similar to those of common viral illness.

Up to 83% of all cases can be prevented through immunization. Most colleges and universities require it prior to the first day of classes. The vaccine protects against four out of five strains of bacterium that causes the disease.

Students' parents will soon receive an information packet about meningitis and the vaccine.

Attention citizens! Let's talk taxes

Are you outraged by your current tax assessment? Are you worried that you may not be able to afford your home in these beautiful mountains much longer? Have you thought about the impact that the tax assessment will have on your day-to-day living? Please join us for an open-mic discussion Saturday, March 3 at 2 p.m. at the Rec Park. Come armed with questions and ideas so that we can move forward to protect our homes. Questions? Call Robin at 526-9792. Together, we can make a difference.

Sponsored in part by WHLC

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY PLAYERS
Presents

Caught IN THE Villain's Web

An Old-Fashioned Melodrama

Written by Herbert E. Swayne
Directed by Donna Cochran

Feb 22-25, Mar. 2-4, 2007
EVENINGS AT 7:30 PM
SUNDAY MATINEES AT 2:30 PM
Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center
507 Chestnut Street, Highlands, NC 28741

For Reservations Call: **828-526-8084**
www.highlandscommunityplayers.org

• REMODELING & DESIGN •



P.O. Box 593
Walhalla, SC 29691

American Upholstery

We Repair Furniture from frame

Residential or Commercial • 37 Years Experience

Free Estimates • Free Pick-up and Delivery

Open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday

102 S. College Street • (864) 638-9661

828-743-5451

HomePlace Blinds & Design Of Sapphire Valley

Custom Window Coverings – Heritage® hardwood shutters
Duet® honeycomb shades, Country Woods® Collection™
Custom Closet Systems, Unique Home Accessories



HunterDouglas
Gallery

Village Square in Sapphire

HIGHLANDS HARDWARE

330 Dillard Road
Upper Level of Highlands Decorating
Phone: 828-526-3719



HDC
HIGHLANDS
DECORATING
CENTER

Derek Taylor

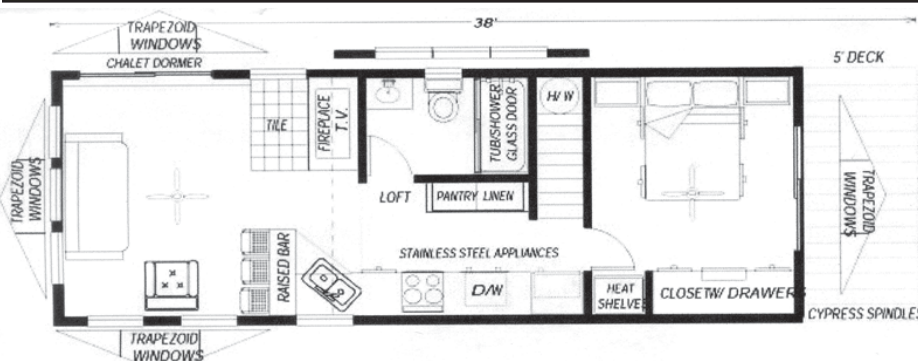
330 Dillard RD
Highlands
828-526-3571

Benjamin Moore Paints
Custom Area Rugs
Fabrics
Floor Coverings
Tile
Wall Coverings
Window Treatments

Chestnut Cottages

674 Chestnut Street

Only 3 blocks to Main Street. Walk to in town!
"Excellent Weekend Getaway or Seasonal Cottage"



Pre-Completion SPECIAL PRICES available 8 lots with deluxe cottage packages

- **Lot #5:** Includes 12' x 34' Deluxe Cottage Package, with 10' x 24' screen porch and natural stacked stone surround — \$187,000.
- **Lot #6:** Includes 12' x 34' Deluxe Cottage Package with 8' x 20' screen porch and natural stacked stone surround — \$167,000.
- **Lot #7:** Includes 12' x 34' Deluxe Cottage Package with 8' x 20' screen porch and natural stacked stone surround — \$177,000.
- **Lot #8:** Includes 12' x 34' Deluxe Cottage package with 10' x 24' screen porch and natural stacked stone surround — \$184,000.
- **Lot #9:** Includes 12' x 28' Deluxe Cottage Package with 8' x 20' screen porch and natural stacked stone surround — \$174,000.
- **Lot #20:** Creek Front: Includes 12' x 44' Deluxe Cottage Package with 8' x 24' screen porch and natural stacked stone surround — \$197,000.
- **Lot #21:** Creek Front: Includes 12' x 34' Deluxe Cottage Package with 8' x 24' screen porch and natural stacked stone surround — \$184,000.
- **Lot #22:** Creek Front @ Entrance: Includes 13' x 29' Deluxe Cottage Package with 8' x 24' screen porch on creek and natural stacked stone surround — \$179,000.

Deluxe Cottage Package Includes: Cyprus Lap, Cyprus Half Log, Western Cedar Vertical B&B, or Rectangular Log Exteriors, T&G Pine Paneling or Cedar Interiors, Additional Sleeping Loft, Stainless Full Size Appliances, W/D, Dishwasher, Gas Fireplace, Thermal Pane Windows and Doors, Various Central H&A Options, Wood Laminate or Pine Flooring, Custom Built Cabinets and more.

Prices include: Membership, Lot, Cottage and all fees and closing costs. Some Owner Financing Available To Qualified Buyers. Hurry...in time for summer!

Call 526-5939 for an appointment.
email: chestnutcottages@mac.com
Investor's Opportunity

Service club picks up litter



NEWS FLASH: Highlands is really trashy. It's everywhere -- in every gully and along every roadway in town proper and along roads leading in and out of Highlands -- NC 28, NC 106 and U.S. 64 west and east. What kind of message is Highlands sending to its visitors, its residents and its youth? That we don't care? Since a lot of the trash is food and alcohol related, it seems people are eating and drinking while they're driving and tossing the refuse out the window, or that garbage trucks and the backs of pick-up trucks are only temporary holding areas for trash. Regardless, now is the time to pick it up. Instead of being hidden by foliage it's in plain sight, a constant reminder of how disrespectful people are of the Highlands community and the environment. It's time to clean up Highlands. For service projects, call Pat Barnes at the Peggy Crosby Center to learn about a money-paying litter pick-up campaign. The Girls' Clubhouse has two routes its responsible for in town. Our meetings over the last two weeks were spent picking up trash. One Friday afternoon it was 28 degrees. All tolled, the girls filled 15 bags. Don't worry, they couldn't bag it all! Pictured are Alex Michaud, Amy Fogel, Amanda Barnes, Lindsey Wagner, Gabrielle Tilson, Kristen Hedden, Sydney Wagner, Shelby Houston, Elizabeth Gordon, and Kaylyn Billingsley.



Photo by Supervisor Kim Lewicki



Mercedes Heller, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust President and Bill Stiefel (past president) posting a Land Trust sign on the property donated by Rachel Hamilton to the Land Trust.

Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust says 'thanks' to Rachel Hamilton

Many of us in Highlands know Rachel Hamilton and how generous she was to the community with her time and talents in so many different ways. She served on many boards, but I have been told that her favorite was The Hudson Library and later the Macon County Library Board. Karen Wallace, the director of the Macon County Library Board described Rachel as being a "dedicated, conscientious board member," and that "she was a great asset to the library board for both Macon and Hudson."

Most people know, of course, that Rachel was an avid gardener, but not that she was dedicated to conservation as well. When the lot next door to her home in the Sagee Mountain community came up for sale, she not only bought the lot to protect her privacy, but then turned right around and gave it to the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust. I asked her at the time if we could publicly recognize her gift, but being the

private person she was, she declined and said "maybe later." Well, the "later" has now arrived as Rachel has sold her home and has moved to College Walk in Brevard. Just before she left she agreed to let me acknowledge her generosity. This 1.9-acre lot on Split Rail Row will be preserved in its natural state forever. This property borders other property on Split Rail Row and Dixon Drive that was given to the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust by Mrs. Ermee Dixon several years ago.

Rachel will be missed by her neighbors and by her many friends in Highlands, but she will always be remembered by those of us who take long walks in this area and will see the sign "Protected by the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust." We will know that it was her generosity and her dedication to preserving green space that allowed this beautiful lot to remain untouched except by nature. Thank you, Rachel Hamilton.

... BOARD continued from page 1

dates who participated in the recent election, including Joey Curtis and Wendy Dalton, were among those individuals discussed. After much discussion, the board confirmed their level of comfort with the options for a possible replacement and named Roberta Swank during the regular meeting on February 26."

According to state statute, a Board of Education may appoint any individual to replace a member following the resignation of a member. The only other stipulation is a time frame of 10 days to have a replacement named. If a replacement has not been named after 10 days, the governor would

then make the appointment.

"I look forward to working with Ms. Roberta Swank as a productive member of the Macon County Board of Education," said Brigman. "Ms. Swank brings to the Board many years of experience working with children and the community. Her high level of awareness of school system and county needs will also prove very beneficial to all stakeholders throughout Macon County."

Swank retired from the school district after 20 years as child nutrition director. Most recently she served a six-month stint under Interim Superintendent Dr. Frank

Highlands Own Internet Shopping

Enter the following coupon code when checking out and we'll donate 5% of your order in your name to the charity named.

Highlands School: Coupon# HS12001

Summit Charter School: Coupon#SC12002

The Girls' Clubhouse: Coupon#GC12004

Highlands Playhouse: Coupon# HP12005

www.highlandsgifts.com

highlandsgifts.com, Inc.

P.O. Box 575

Highlands, NC 28741-0575

Phone: 877-509-6808 • Email: info@highlandsgifts.com



Acorns

465 Main Street

Highlands, North Carolina

European and American Antiques

Gifts and Home Accessories

Designer Women's Apparel

Jewelry, Handbags and Scarves

Winter Clothing Clearance Sale

50% – 75% Off

Acorns Home Furnishings Annex

Now Open by Appointment only

Furniture • Lamps • Chandeliers

Please call 787-1877 for appointment.

828.787.1877

Open year-round

Monday through Saturday

and select Sundays

www.acornsonline.com

OWNED AND OPERATED BY OLD EDWARDS HOSPITALITY GROUP, LLC

130440

Yeager when he enlisted her help to revamp the system's child nutrition program.

"Having been on both sides of the fence, I know the schools and their needs," said Swank. "I have a strong commitment to kids and education and I feel very strongly that we need to volunteer and do as much for our community as we can and help in some fashion when called."

Swank has never been afraid to voice

her opinion or to push for what she thinks is right.

"The people on the board and in the system know me and I've always given them my opinion even when they could have fired me on the spot," she said. "We learn when we discuss things. To disagree doesn't mean one is wrong, it just means we're searching for the best answer."

She said everyone is on the board for
• See BOARD page 21

• SALONS & SPAS •



Patricia Barnes • Master Cosmetologist
Caprita Barnes • Master Cosmetologist
Sharon Taylor • Massage Therapist NC LMBT #1429
Justin Taylor • Ace Certified Personal Trainer
OPEN: Tues. - Fri. 10-6 • Sat. 10-3 • Monday by appt.

(828) 526-4192

460 Dillard Road in The Great Things! Shopping Plaza

All Seasons Salon

Signature Hair Designs for Men & Women
Razor Cuts • Color • Perms
Off the Alley Behind Wolfgang's
Oak & Fifth Streets

Barbara, Gale & Van • 526-0349 • Open Mon - Sat

Creative Concepts Salon

549 E. Main St.
- Upper Level -

at
The Falls on Main

526-3939

Tracy, Michael, Joe, Lacy, Heather, and Janet Marie



Images Unlimited

PROFESSIONAL HAIR & NAIL CARE

828-526-9477

NCLMBT

225 Spring Street • Highlands

Spa on Spring

MASSAGE THERAPY
XOLOGY ~ AROMATHERAPY
GIFTS

828-526-8832
SpaOnSpring@aol.com

Mountain Magic Salon

Call for appointment
526-4049

Hair, Nails & Tanning

Hair Stylists: Marisa & Judi • Nail Tech: Sharon

Tues.-Sat. 8 a.m. until • 44 Satulah Roadl.

Pro NAILS

9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Mon.-Sat.

Appointments & Walk-ins

526-8777



- Sea salt spa - Pedicure & Manicure
- Solar Nails
- Diamond & Gel Nails
- Complete Waxing Services

Corner of 5th & Main

• HIS & HERS •

Oscar

John is a pretty tolerant person, but I don't think he was really thrilled about sharing the house with Oscar. I picked Oscar up on a street between my apartment and the office four years ago, and just couldn't leave him behind when I left New York.

Now, before you go getting the wrong idea, let me explain that Oscar is what we call "mongo" in New York. No, not the Mongo of *Blazing Saddles* fame. New York City is the best place for mongo, at least according to Ted Botha, whose book *MONGO: Adventures in Trash* came out in 2004. Mongo is slang for the stuff folks throw out on the street or in trash heaps. In his book, Botha explains: "The combination of wealth, residents living at close quarters, and the fact that so much gets thrown away out of lack of space, sheer laziness, ignorance or wastefulness means there's lots of mongo and it's easy to reach."

My old neighborhood of Turtle Bay was particularly rich in mongo. Many of my rugs, most of my bookcases, and several plants were throw-aways that someone didn't want anymore. Which brings me to Oscar.

One of the saddest days of the year in New York is the day all of the old Christmas trees get put on the sidewalk, awaiting the truck which comes around with a wood chipper (the chips go into mulch for use in Central Park). I was walking to work that day, and spied a lovely little Norfolk Island pine in its pot, waiting to end its life as fertilizer. I could understand the fate of those dead trees, but it seemed criminal to destroy this cute little live tree. Sure enough, I gathered it up in my arms, and trotted off to work. Walking on to the Trading Floor of the bank where I worked, I knew I had to find somewhere more private for my latest acquisition, so I snuck into the corner office of my German colleague, Charlie. "I'm asking for political asylum for this tree, Charlie" I blurted out.

Fortunately, Charlie was quite taken with my find, and we found a nice, sunny place for it to stay. Someone walked into Charlie's office, and, seeing the tree, asked what it was. "O Tannenbaum" sang Charlie, in a booming voice. "Oh", she said, "What's the 'O' stand for?" Charlie and I looked at each other in disbelief that anyone could be that dumb. "It



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

stands for Oscar", I replied, thinking that sounded as good as anything else. And so Oscar, it was. Oscar lived in Charlie's office for three years, growing bigger and more beautiful. He got Christmas decorations in December, and tiny red hearts for Valentine's Day. And then I fell in love, and decided

to move to North Carolina. What was I going to do with Oscar? He was now a splendid tree, and not exactly a small one, either.

I spoke to Charlie, who claimed he was fine about me taking Oscar with me, but as my departure day approached, resistance began. Wouldn't it be difficult to move such a tree? Would the movers take it, and if not, how would I get it to Highlands? It was too big for the plane, and we'd missed the chance to take it in the car. I searched the Internet for solutions. The best one seemed to be to pack Oscar carefully in a box, and call the FedEx folks to collect and deliver him to my new home. A kind mover from Big John's Movers helped me pack Oscar, and a bemused FedEx man packed him into his truck. I crossed my fingers, and hoped for the best.

Imagine my relief when shortly after my arrival in Highlands, the FedEx truck made it up our mountain with a very large box. Tucked inside - a bit the worse for wear - was my poor Oscar. A few branches were broken, a few rather bent, but all in all, Oscar had survived the indignity of two days cooped up in a box.

We all have weaknesses, crazy whims and desires, unexplained likes and habits. Sometimes we have to put ourselves on the line for them. Mine is Oscar. Today was a sunny day. Oscar is thriving on the porch. One of John's cats, the little female, has taken a shine to Oscar, and spends her days lying in his shade. Oscar and I are thriving, putting down roots, and hoping that we grow old together in this beautiful old house.

• 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 currently recuperating on top of a mountain near Highlands, North Carolina.

... GANTENBEINS continued from page 1

pulled over for improper lane use by Louisiana State Police on Interstate 12 east-bound at mile post 59 on the border of Mandeville and Covington, LA.

Following a search of the vehicle they were driving and the vehicle they were towing, 369 pounds of marijuana and one

• See GANTENBEINS page 10

Forest service approves Highlands-Wayah Ranger District consolidation

Forest Service Approves Highlands-Wayah Ranger District Consolidation

The U.S. Forest Service announced that it has received final Washington Office approval for its proposal to consolidate the Highlands and Wayah Ranger Districts on the Nantahala National Forest. The newly named "Nantahala" Ranger District will be stationed in Franklin, NC, at the current Wayah Ranger District office location. Some Forest Service information and services will still be available in Highlands, but at a reduced level.

According to National Forests in North Carolina Supervisor Marisue Hilliard, "This was not a decision that was quickly or easily made. From our discussions with employees and the people of Highlands we know they had concerns that it may become more difficult for people in the Highlands area to get information and permits and other services with the Ranger District office being moved 21 miles away. To lessen this impact, we plan to take the following steps:

- Maintain the Highlands Work Center.

This will enable us to stage firefighters and equipment during high fire danger times so we can respond more rapidly to wildfires. We will also closely coordinate with the NC Division of Forest

Resources and local volunteer fire departments and search and rescue units to ensure we are able to respond to wildfires and other emergencies in a timely manner."

"Additionally, keeping the Work Center in Highlands will help us better maintain forest recreation facilities and conduct work on national forest lands in the Highlands Cashiers area", Hilliard added. "We can also continue to provide facility support to the NC Division of Forestry Christmas tree seedling orchard located near the Work Center."

- Maintain the Downtown Information Station

This "store front" facility will continue to be run by the Cradle of Forestry Interpretive Association and provide maps and a variety of visitor information about the national forests. This facility will be open Monday through Saturday from Memorial Day to November and on weekends in April and May and November. The Forest Service will also provide a Forest employee at this facility during peak times or at other scheduled times to offer firewood permits, special forest product permits, and recreational season passes as well as answer more detailed questions about the Forest.

- All of the current recreation facilities on the Highlands District will remain open.

Nantahala District Ranger Mike Wilkins added, "All of the resources, recreation areas and other special areas in the Highlands area are important to us. We are

committed to maintaining these treasured forest resources."

The Forest Service is planning to hold an open house at the current Highlands Ranger District office on Flat Mountain Road on Tuesday March 13 from noon to 8 pm to answer questions about the consolidation and how to get the information and services they need.

"Consolidation of these two districts is just one of a number of steps we are taking to reduce costs and improve efficiency in light of continued tight budgets and ever increasing personnel and facility costs," Hilliard said. "We are reducing the number of employees on all of the Pisgah and Nantahala Districts and in the Forest Supervisor's office in Asheville. The reality is that, like other agencies and the private sector, we have to stay within our budget. Personnel and contracting costs continue to climb while our overall budget is flat. If we did nothing in a very short time, perhaps as soon as one or two years we would not be able to even make our payroll, much less have enough money left over to maintain the facilities and services we provide to the public.

"Over the last year and a half, a team of Forest Service employees has been working on an overall reorganization strategy for all National Forest sites in North Carolina to look the best ways to reduce costs and improve efficiencies while maintaining as much as possible service to the public," Hilliard said. "Because of their close proximity (21 miles apart) the Wayah and Highlands District offices were identified by the team as feasible for consolidation as long as ways could be found of maintaining an acceptable level of service to visitors and residents of the Highlands area. Reducing our fixed costs by reducing the number of administrative sites provides more money to do work on the ground. We expect to accomplish our reorganization goals through a combination of transfers, retirements and not filling vacant positions. No Forest employees have been laid off as a result of this reorganization. Most employees currently working out of the Highlands office will now be working out of Franklin.

"This is not the first or only district consolidation for the National Forests in North Carolina," Hilliard added. "Several years ago we combined the French Broad District in Hot Springs with the Toecane District in Burnsville. A new Appalachian District office is scheduled to be built in Mars Hill next year."

The Forest expects to close its Highlands District Office by June 1. It is likely that this office facility, a former residence, will be offered for sale sometime next year.

For more information, contact Nantahala District Ranger Mike Wilkins at 828-524-644.



Highlands, North Carolina Employer of Choice, OLD EDWARDS HOSPITALITY

Is hosting a JOB FAIR

**March 2 from 12-4 and March 3 from 9-1
21 Church Street in the Conference Center**

We are looking for people who are enthusiastic and excited about being part of a winning team. This could be you!

We currently have the following opportunities:

Cooks
Servers
Utility
Bar Tenders
Spa Attendants
Bakers
Banquet Servers
Banquet Set Up
Pool Attendants
Esthetician
Massage Therapists
Retail Sales
Reservations Sales
Housekeeping Supervisor
Laundry Supervisor
Sous Chef
AV/IT Tech

Here is what we have to offer:

Medical/Dental/Life Insurance
Associate Housing
Uniforms Provided and Maintained
Associate Referral Bonus
Monthly Revenue Incentives
Service Champions of the Month & Year
Meal Vouchers • Paid Holidays
Sick Days • Vacation Days
Educational Assistance
Discounts on Spa/Retail/Rooms/Food
401(k) • Associate Assistance Program

... GANTENBEINS continued from page 8

gram of cocaine were found.

The two were placed under arrest and transported to the St. Tammany jail where they were booked, charged and later released on \$100,000 bond each.

The Gantenbeins were contracted to tow a car from Houston, Texas to Alabama. LeBlanc said the two men had no knowledge of the contents of the 1993 Lincoln Town Car they were towing. The marijuana was found in the Lincoln.

Michael Gantenbein told police the one gram of cocaine found in their car was

his and his father had no knowledge of it.

If convicted of possession with intent to distribute, the two could serve 10-60 years in prison which is the penalty for possession of 60-2,000 pounds of marijuana in Louisiana.

Larry Gantenbein was fired from his position with the town as Zoning Administrator on Jan. 9. Michael Gantenbein is owner of Goodyear Tire and Auto which was closed by the state on Jan. 8 for failure to pay taxes.

— Kim Lewicki

Madison's

RESTAURANT AND WINE GARDEN

Come See What's New At Madison's

3-Course Chef's Tasting Menu
Offered 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
\$45



Madison's winter menu features
new side dishes and delectable breads
to enhance your dining experience.

Serving Lunch & Dinner Daily

FOR RESERVATIONS OR MORE INFORMATION

PLEASE CALL 828-526-5477

445 MAIN STREET • HIGHLANDS, NC

130738

• ANOTHER VIEW •

How American is American?

I saw an article last week that promised to unveil the polygamous ancestral tree of Mitt Romney. Romney is a former governor of Massachusetts and current candidate for the Republican nomination for President. It is not surprising that polygamy existed among Romney's forebears who, like Mitt, were Mormons. As we all know, polygamy was a fact of life for nineteenth century Mormons. Romney's father, George, was governor of Michigan and briefly a presidential candidate in 1968. His candidacy was derailed by an admission that his support for the Viet Nam War was the result of brainwashing. The article mentioned that George had been born in Mexico, where his Mormon parents had fled to avoid U.S. and Church prohibition against multiple marriages. I was sure that the author was wrong, because I had learned, as I suspect most of you did, in high school civics class, that to be president, one must have been born in the United States. My civics teacher was probably wrong. Apparently, no one is quite sure. The Constitution requires that the president be a "natural born citizen." That has been interpreted to mean born in the USA, but a more common interpretation is that one be born here or born of American parents outside the country. In 1968, there was fear that a Romney victory might have precipitated a constitutional crisis. Instead, we got Nixon, and his own crisis.

To thicken the soup a bit more, I learned that Senator John McCain, a presidential candidate as American as apple pie was born, not in the United States, but in the Canal Zone, where his



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.

email: hsalzarulo@aol.com

father, Admiral McCain, was serving. The only reason that I can imagine that I was unaware of that fact is that scholars have decided That Senator McCain is, indeed, a "natural born citizen." How unfair it would be if a person were denied the presidency because of his father's duty station. Of course, there are some might disagree. Rudi and Hillary come to mind.

A bit of historical research revealed that the provision was included in the Constitution because John Jay wanted to limit foreign influence in the new republic. He suggested the natural born American phrase to George Washington, who agreed, and passed it on to the Constitutional Convention, which approved it without debate. I think there is little, if any, doubt that John McCain, if elected, can serve as president. But what about other loyal, naturalized Americans? Why should they be denied the right to serve in the country's highest office? Of course, Arnold Schwarzenegger, is the most prominent foreign born, naturalized American, whose name has been mentioned.

Jennifer Granholm, Michigan's governor, who by all accounts is doing a terrific job running a very difficult state was born in Canada, and would also be eliminated from consideration. Of course, America can get along without Arnold or Jennifer at the helm, but is it reasonable that these notable citizens should be denied the chance to run and Americans be denied the right to choose them, all because of an accident of birth and an eighteenth century afterthought?

Archaic laws remain on the books in

• See ANOTHER VIEW page 14

• HIGHLANDS FINE DINING •



Dinner: 5-10 nightly
Live Music Fridays at 9:30

Cuisine

Regional Menus & Extensive Wine List

N.C. 106 in Great Things Plaza • 526-4429



151 Helen's Barn Avenue, Highlands

Think "Fressers" for
Lunch & Dinner!

Gourmet meals • Fabulous Desserts • Wine
• Brown-bagging permitted

Open for lunch and dinner

Call for reservations • 526-4188

MAIN STREET

Inn
A Great Place to
Stay.

Join us for

Highlands Community Player's
pre- & post-show parties
Saturdays Feb. 24 & March 3

Pre-show: wine & appetizers: 6 p.m.

Post-show: wine & dessert 9 p.m.

270 Main Street • 526-2590 • www.mainstreet-inn.com



Ristorante Paoletti

Call 526-4906

Fine Italian dining since 1953.

440 Main Street

Open Thursday-Sunday in March

Serving Dinner from 5:30 p.m. • Reservations recommended

Wine Spectator's "Best of Award of Excellence"

• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

The wisdom of insecurity

Alan Watts is one of my favorite writers of spiritual books. One of the things I like about him is his "nonpartisan" approach to spirituality. He had a master's degree in divinity, was a minister in the Anglican Church, and studied Buddhism extensively. In his writings he refers to these religious traditions and their teachings but his goal, I think, was a spiritual understanding transcendent of ideology and doctrine.



Katie Brugger

moment as new and unique. As we grow older we believe we know what things are because we have names for them. We actually stop seeing because we think we already have seen everything.

"The greater the scientist, the more he is impressed with his ignorance of reality, and the more he realizes that his laws and labels, descriptions and definitions, are the products of his own thought.

Steadily he approaches the point where what is unknown is not a mere blank space in a web of words but a window in the mind, a window whose name is not ignorance but wonder...Eddington, the physicist, is nearest to the mystics, not in his airier flights of fancy, but when he says quite simply, 'something unknown is doing we don't know what.'

Part of our grasping after security is the
•See BRUGGER page 18

The first book of his I read was *Wisdom of Insecurity*. His premise is that we live in a universe of constant change. We are terrified by change — it means the death of what is — and to cope with the fear we try to create zones of security in our lives. We buy insurance for "peace of mind security," elect politicians who promise to keep us secure from our enemies, and save money to ensure a "secure retirement."

We try to create zones in our lives where nothing changes. We imagine ourselves and others to be basically the same from day to day. I look at pictures of myself as a child and all I see is how much I have changed, in fact the impression is I am a completely different person now. And yet I also believe there is a permanent "me" that is unchanged through my lifetime and will (hopefully, somehow) continue forever.

We expect our spouses to remain the same and are often surprised to wake up one day 20 years later and find this isn't the same person we married.

We also create "secure" zones in our minds, fixed beliefs about the way it is and the way it should be.

We think we suffer because of the uncertainties and changes of life; Watts would say we suffer because of our resistance to uncertainty and change. "Is it not, then, a strange inconsistency and an unnatural paradox that 'I' resists change in 'me' and in the surrounding universe? Change is not merely a destroyer; it is also a builder. Every form is really a pattern of movement, and every living thing is like the river, which, if it did not flow out, would never have been able to flow in."

How would life look if we didn't resist the flow of change? Watts writes, "The art of living in the 'predicament' [of insecurity] is neither careless drifting on the one hand nor fearful clinging to the past and the known on the other. It consists in being completely sensitive to each moment, in regarding it as utterly new and unique, in having the mind open and wholly receptive."

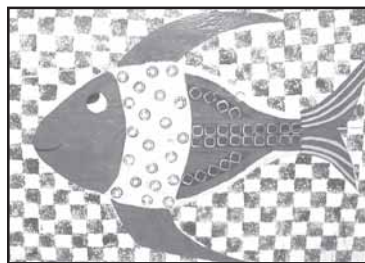
A consequence of our aversion to change is the loss of wonder that we all experienced as children. We don't see each

Free concert March 4 at First Presbyterian



The Western Carolina University Faculty Showcase, co-sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church and WCU, 4 p.m., Sunday, March 4 at the First Pres. Featured from left are Bradley Martin, piano; Mary Kay Bauer, soprano; Michael Schallack, tuba; Shannon Thompson, clarinet; and Eldred Spell, flute. It's free. This is part of the church's ongoing concert series.

• HIGHLANDS EATERIES •



Pescado's Burritos

In the middle of 4th St.
Open for lunch
Mon-Sat. • 526-9313



"Quick Service Not Fast Food!"

Hamburgers & Fries
Sandwiches & Salads
Ice Cream & More!
Open for lunch Mon.-Fri.
Now Trans Fat FREE

At 4th & Spring streets...on the hill



526-5916

\$10 minimum with credit card



Buck's Coffee Cafe

Open 7 days a week
7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Coffee, tea, wine,
pastries, sandwiches
384 Main Street

High Country Cafe



Down home
favorites
everyday!

Breakfast & Lunch
6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Sunday through Friday;
Saturday, 7 am.-1 p.m.

526-0572

Cashiers Road next to the
Community Bible Church

Stop in for slow-cooked BBQ, Ribs,
Fried Chicken, Hot Wings and other
Southern favorites that'll have you
coming back for more.



461 Spring Street • 526-2626

DUSTY'S RHODES SUPERETTE

We are proud to announce the
addition of

Old Fashioned Cakes

By Cindy Lou
Delicious Homebaked from
scratch cakes!

You have got to try them...They
are as delicious as they look.

Also available:

Homebaked Sweetbread, Danish
& more by:

Season's Sampler

We'll be closed March 4-11

Mon-Sat • 493 Dillard Rd. • 526-2762



Why Knot Knit Highlands

Your knitting destination
In beautiful Highlands

A superb selection of the finest yarns, accessories and classes for your knitting pleasure.

202 North 5th St. in
The Village Square
828-787-1972

Call 526-0782
for advertising
information.
Prepare to prosper
in 2007!

The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

Invites the Community to share in its
Tuesdays Lenten program:

PRACTICING OUR FAITH

"Rules for Living our Lives as Christians"

5 p.m. Stations of the Cross

5:30 p.m. Soup & Salad

6 p.m. Speaker

March 6: The Rev. Jim Yeary –
"Stewardship of Self"

March 13: The Rev. Virginia Monroe –
"Prayer/Spiritual Direction"

March 20: The Rev. Bucky Hanks –
"Bible Study"

March 27: The Rev. Gray Temple –
"Forgiveness/Reconciliation"

April 3:

Holy Tuesday Eucharist
in the Chapel at 5:30

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Come for all or parts of the programs
each or any Tuesday.

Students get involved school system



On Thursday, Feb. 15, Superintendent Dan Brigman invited some carefully chosen students to the first meeting of the Student Advisory Council. They were given some basic information and asked to share their opinions and ideas. Specifically discussed were state tests — especially math and reading — bullying, facilities, and technology. Most students thought that the school system as a whole should be doing better on their testing scores. Many thought that bullying was reasonably addressed. Other overall opinions were that more technology should be used in the classrooms. From Highlands was Michael Grabe and Marlee McCall.

Photo by Stephanie McCall

... ORDINANCES continued from page 1

the total number of lots allowed for single-family detached development in either the underlying zoning district or the watershed overlay district – whichever is more restrictive.

"This eliminates the confusion between the two different lot size requirements which has caused problems in the past," said Betz.

In addition, the amount of property left open and common must be 50 percent and as contiguous at the natural terrain allows.

A cluster development is defined as structures being arranged in close proximity in non-linear groups, adjacent to a permanently preserved common open space to include wetlands, recreational areas, historic sites and areas unsuitable for development in its natural state. However commissioners will work on language to stipulate leaving natural areas as undisturbed as possible prior to the public hearing.

The Planning Board voted of 4-1 to accept the clustering/common space idea. Clem Patton opposed the idea because he said developers will count the "unsuitable for development" portion of property as "common space" to satisfy built-upon requirements to increase density.

"We heard just recently where a developer bought a portion of an adjoining wetland to add more property to the parcel to allow for more buildings," he said. "Without that wetland, he would have had to eliminate a building."

But other board members said the cluster with common space idea – regardless of the type of common space — is an incentive to developers and is less disturbing to the land.

"One reason for clustering is to protect wetland areas and encourage biodiversity," said Betz. "Don't wetlands constitute a common area?"

Planning Board member Mitch Gurganus said clustering around a wetland

would still mean less infrastructure, less cost, less pavement and less impact on the site. "That's the incentive," he said.

Planning Board member Pat Taylor agreed. "It's a way of preserving rather than cutting a parcel up in 10 big lots."

Patton still said it's just a loophole to increase density.

The subject of non-conforming uses has plagued the town's various boards for years. Not to be confused with non-conforming buildings, non-conforming uses pertain to the use performed out of the building not the building itself.

The Planning Board recommended allowing a non-conforming use to continue as long as a non-conforming use doesn't change to another non-conforming use; that the use isn't re-established after having stopped for 12 months except if it's stopped due to a fire or natural disaster. "If the discontinuance of use is due to damage from an unintentional fire or other natural disaster, then the building may be repaired or reconstructed and the use re-established," reads the ordinance.

However, repair or reconstruction must begin within 12 months and completed in two years and the total built-upon can't increase, or setbacks extended beyond the original building.

With the issuance of a Special Use Permit from the Zoning Board, the building in which a non-conforming use takes place can be expanded or the use extended to an additional building on the same property.

Commissioners said non-conforming buildings will be addressed at another time.

Sheds and storage units aren't allowed on vacant land in the R1 zone in town, but during the ETJ process, owners of vacant parcels classified agricultural in the ETJ-R1 zone requested the right to build sheds or storage buildings to house equipment for said property. The planning board agreed to allow this.

– Kim Lewicki

The Summer House

Distinct and Customized
Products...

- Summer House Collection of Upholstery
- Coordinated Bedding
- Interior and Exterior Lighting
- Collections of Original Art
- Extensive Selection of Unique Accessories
- Gifts
- Kitchen and Pantry Items

Handcrafted Furniture by:

Tiger mounTain
WoodWorKs

2 miles from Main Street
2089 Dillard Road • 526-5577
Paula & Barry Jones



AUTO INSURANCE



WAYAH INSURANCE

*Auto-Owners
Insurance*

ONE AND THE SAME

Call Wayah at
526-3713
or stop by the office
on Carolina Way



"Their brains were so loaded"....with lyrics from songs like The Band Played on, Clementine, When You Wore a Tulip and other old-timey favorites. Jerry Huie, Carl Blozan, Paige Bernstein, John Greene, Sandra Bash, Bob Tietze and Joe Powell are hamming it up this weekend in the March 2-4 performances by the Highlands Community Players of "Caught in the Villain's Web" at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut St., Highlands. Tickets are \$15 and can be reserved by calling 828-526-8084.

Go get caught in the 'Villain's Web'— there's bound to be someone you know

There's just no excuse to miss Highlands Community Players current production "Caught in the Villain's Web." It's fun, it's well done, it's inexpensive and it's something to do weekend nights in Highlands in March!

This melodrama – over the top in all regards (totally overacted with asides and olios to boot) is fun to watch and represents excellent community theater with first-rate actors, costumes and scenery.

Over the top acting or overacting isn't usually allowed in comedies or dramas, but in melodramas the more over the top the better. Every character overacts wonderfully in the show from the experienced to the novice and the asides, where action stops while the actor tells the audience what they're really doing, or really thinking or what they really hopes happens, adds an extra dimension to the play.

The use of olios, where old-time musical numbers are performed between acts by the Web Warblers, will have you singing along.

It's always good to see the oldies but goodies on stage – Virginia Talbot as the plotting Regina Larkfield; Jim Gordon as the butler with a dark past; Ronnie Spilton as Florette the French maid complete in the stereotypical costume; and Michelle Hott as nurse and love-interest Felicity Fair.

On stage for the second time with HCP is Nathan Smith who plays Malvern Larkfield. He debuted with HCP in "Crimes of the Heart" earlier in the season.

Talented Jessica Bryant returns to the

HCP for the second time, too, – this time as daughter Lona Larkfield. She was in HCP's "I remember Mama," and played Scout in the Highlands Playhouse production "To Kill a Mockingbird." She flits about overacting like crazy, expressions, gestures, lines.

Wayne Coleman a veteran actor from Atlanta in his third production with HCP is perfectly cast as the villain. He too performed with the Playhouse as Tevye in "Fiddler on the Roof." Jack Schneider returns to the HCP stage for the third time as Dr. Hugo Belch and always draws a laugh with line about his wife Tootsie.

With each new HCP production it's fun to see what newcomer the director will cast from Highlands. This time director Donna Cochran selected Diane Rosazza as Geraldine Hargrave and Carla Gates as Nella Hargrave.

Rosazza, though new to the HCP stage, has had lots of experience on stage in Florida and was in the Highlands Historical Society's Walk in the Park.

Considering this is Carla Gates' second time on stage – the first being the Highlands School senior play "Mixed Nuts" – she just might be a natural. Naturally animated, "Caught in the Villain's Web" is the perfect venue to showcase her ability to be melodramatic and she appears right at home doing it.

The show runs through Sunday. Go see it. The cast and crew have worked hard and it shows.

– Kim Lewicki

HIGHLANDS HOME DECOR

Wholesale Down Comforters & More!

Next to Farmers Market on the Main Street side



- Down comforters
- Down blankets
- 600 & 440 thread count sheet sets
- Feather beds
- New shipment of sheets

526-4905

Keep warm this winter with down comforters & blankets!

Monday-Saturdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m.



- Cards
- Accessories
- Gourmet Kitchenware
- Dinner Settings

Casafina

Open Mon – Saturday • 10am to 5pm

450 Main Street Highlands, NC 828-526-5226

Call 526-0782

for advertising information and
prepare to prosper in 2007!

Michael's FOR HAIR AND NAILS *at Old Edwards Inn*

*The Spa at Old Edwards Inn
is pleased to welcome*

Michael Frankenberg

Specializing in
Designer Cuts and European Hair Color

Clients will enjoy full use of the fabulous
Spa Amenities Building and the Spa Cafe
on the day of their appointment.

Appointments starting February 20, 2007

Call today!

828-526-9887

4th & Church Streets

(Parking on Church Street and Valet Parking
is available at Old Edwards Inn.)

OLD CLAYTON INN



60 S. Main Street –
Clayton, GA
706-782-7722 for
reservations

WELCOME HIGHLANDS FRIENDS

Why do so many Highlands folks drive down the mountain for dinner Friday and Saturday evenings? To have a nice quiet Prime Rib Dinner Buffet at the Old Clayton Inn and listen to Angie Jenkins play Broadway piano, and maybe to have a glass of beer or wine with dinner and while listening. That's why! \$14.95 • 5 to 9 pm.

Please call for reservations to be sure. Also open for breakfast and lunch every day. Karaoke Dinner Saturday, March 3, 5 to 11 pm, \$5 cover applies to dinner cost.

Raspberry Fizz

BEADING, POTTERY & MORE

- Full line of quality beads and beading supplies
 - The area's only "Paint-Your-Own" Pottery studio
 - Fun and whimsical gifts
 - Book your beading and pottery parties now!
- 526-8123

On Main St, between Buck's and Highlands Fine Art

"Heart of the High Country"

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



Everyday at 8 a.m., noon, 5 p.m., 7 p.m., 10 p.m., & midnight.

The Visitor Information Program airs at 7 am, 9 am, 4 pm, 6 pm, 9 pm, and 11 pm.

• THE CONSERVATIVE POV •

Darkness at noon

When I bellied up to the computer to start this week's column, it struck me that I had absolutely no idea what I was going to write about. To tell you the truth, I am depressed. I'm always depressed at this time of year. I am a sun-loving person. When I went out to do errands today, the sky was leaden, devoid of any glimmer of sunlight. That's the way it is most of the time these days. Not good.

And then, this is the period of time between the end of football and the beginning of baseball. When I grew up, I probably played hockey more than any other sport because that's what you do in Minnesota, but I just can't get into it on television. Tell you the truth, I can't see the puck, which makes it kind of futile. Golf is boring, bowling is limp and you can watch only so much World Championship Poker. March Madness offers some hope.

The Democrat Congress doesn't help matters.

Writing about the ills of the world every week isn't particularly uplifting, either.

It used to be that between CNBC and Fox News, I had a steady source of simulative input, however, Fox has evidently gone tabloid and I can't stand anymore Anna Nicole Smith coverage. I couldn't stand the woman when she

was alive and, meaning no disrespect of the dead, I find it hard to believe any one person could leave behind such a skanky legacy.

What makes the matter worse is the insatiable appetite the viewing public appears to have for coverage of this sordid train wreck of humanity. What is the appeal that I'm missing? Who's the father? Who cares? Who gets custody of the baby left behind? Who cares? Who gets custody of the body left behind? Who cares? Who gets the money? Who cares? Which judge has jurisdiction over what? Who cares? It's sad.

And then there's Brittany. Again, this pathetic soul is more to be pitied than plundered. First, evidently, the concept of infant car seats escapes her. Does she have two kids? Oh lord, wherever they are and whoever is looking after them, save them from mommy. I guess she married some guy who apparently I should know about and thankfully, I don't. That lasted several weeks.

She's bopping around the party scene with reckless abandon, and rumor has it she might be indulging in illegal substances. No, you don't mean it. If it's true,



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

maybe that's why she feels compelled to leave her drawers in the drawer and let the world know it. Now I'm no prude, but I call that unladylike. Then there's her drive-through experience with rehab. I'm beginning to think this girl is unstable.

I believe I heard that she committed herself a second time, bugged out again, and committed herself for a third time. Enough already. It's sad.

And finally, I think tonight is Oscar night. I find the spectacle offensive. Hundreds of millions of people soak up the parade of phoney balonies all gussied up with gowns costing as much as the gross national product of a third world country. I'm so bummed I'm not even sure why these people bother me so much.

I think it has something to do with their willingness to share their political views.

Imagine my horror when I turned on CNBC this morning expecting to restart my engine in matters of high finance, and I am met with Martin Scorsese giving his acceptance speech. It just isn't right.

When I started this thing, I said I didn't know what I was going to write about. Now that I'm about done, I'm not sure why I wrote what I wrote. I think the whole thing has to do with the public's preoccupation with frivolity. With all the world-shaking issues facing us, most of us would rather bury our heads in the sand and ignore reality.

It's possible that the problem is mine. I'm heading for South Florida for some sun and fun. Maybe that will brighten my outlook.

... ANOTHER VIEW from page 10

many states, such as those criminalizing spitting or mandating that only licensed physicians may apply tattoos. I remember that until fairly recently there was a law that made it legal for a resident of Rhode Island to shoot a resident of Connecticut crossing the state line, or maybe it was the other way around. The point is that there are some strange laws out there and there is at least one strange provision in the Constitution, one that should be eliminated, not for Jennifer or Arnold, but for fairness, for common sense, for America. It is unlikely that the issue is important enough to result in constitutional amendment, and that is unfortunate, for unlike many other antiquated laws, we can't just ignore it.

Screenings show area population may be getting healthier

Area residents may be getting somewhat healthier in several key areas, if the nearly 400 people who attended the series of free health screenings last summer and fall are any indication.

Each year between April and October, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital conducts a series of free community health screenings. Two are held in Cashiers, two in Highlands and one in Sky Valley, GA. Roughly the same overall number of people attended this past season's screening as in prior years, but according to hospital officials, overall results showed improvement in several key health areas.

For example, significantly fewer of those screened had problems with their cholesterol. Nearly half of those participating in the screenings in 2005 had cholesterol levels that would constitute a reason for concern, but that number dropped by 10% last year. The percentage of participants with high blood sugar and high blood pressure was also down.

That was the good news.

Unfortunately, the number of people who are considered overweight according to their body mass index was up significantly, climbing from just over 25 percent in 2005 to more than 36 percent last year. That's still significantly less than the national average. Some estimates claim that as many as 65% of Americans are either overweight or obese.

"It's important to remember that while many of the same people take advantage of these screenings every year, we are not testing an identical control group," cautioned Skip Taylor, director of community relations at the hospital. "And since participation in the screenings is completely voluntary, there is no way to know if the screening group statistically represents the overall population. Still, it's encouraging to see what appears to be real improvement in certain key health indicators."

Participants from Cashiers this past year showed the most dramatic improvement in the area of cholesterol levels. In the two 2005 screenings held at Blue Ridge School, more than 72 percent of participants had some type of cholesterol issue. However, only 41 percent of the participants at 2006 screenings at Blue Ridge had a problem with their cholesterol.

Unlike screenings conducted in many other areas, the hospital runs a full lipid profile on every participant. It yields results for total cholesterol, as well as five different specific types of lipid levels.

"While cholesterol gets talked about a lot in the media, there are certainly many other factors, such as family history, smoking, hypertension, diet, and exercise levels,

• See SCREENINGS page 17

• CLASSIFIEDS •

Free Classified Ads for items
FOR SALE less than \$1,000.

All other terms:
20 words for \$5; \$2 for each
10-word increment.

Email copy to:
highlandseditor@aol.com
or FAX to 1-866-212-8913

Send check to:
Highlands' Newspaper
P.O. Box 2703
Highlands, NC 28741
828-526-0782

HELP WANTED

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

**NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR
SUMMER EMPLOYMENT AT THE REC PARK –**
Needed, lifeguard and rec counselors. Call the Rec Dept. at 526-3556 for an application or pick one up at the front desk at the Rec Park.

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

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

WANTED TO RENT

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

BUSINESS FOR SALE

ESTABLISHED ELECTRONICS STORE with excellent growth history for sale in Highlands. Rare business opportunity. Call 526-8534.

FOR RENT

HOME-HOME OFFICE – Main Street Highlands, next to the Chamber of Commerce. 2/2 with additional 1-bed or office. \$1,300 per month. Partially furnished. Call 828-526-0388.

1,600 SQ. FT STORAGE/OFFICE SPACE. Two units left. Each unit has; 11 ft. doors, Heat/AC systems, bathrooms. Close to downtown Highlands. \$950 per month. Call Jim Tate 828-371-0773 or Chris Gilbert

owner/broker 828-421-3161. ALL RETAIL UNITS ARE GONE

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

AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY, spacious, fully furnished, 1/1 apt right on Main St. Balcony, walk in closet, new carpet, and small pets are allowed. This won't last long so call 526-3363.

FARM HOUSE - 3/Bed 2/Bath renovated farm house in Scaly on Buck Knob Rd. \$1,100 + utilities monthly. Call 526-4646.

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

2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH DREAM CABIN! 5 minutes from Highlands in Scaly Mtn. New appliances, new carpet, with amazing view! Stone/Wood Cabin with carport and separate workshop and wonderful landscaped property! \$825 per month. Annual Lease. Call 423-894-9566

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

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

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR LEASE

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

**RENT OR RENT TO OWN THIS 3BED/2BATH
HOME IN TOWN.** Rental rate is \$995 a month/with a portion going towards purchase. For details call (828) 421-3161.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

1,600 SQ. FT STORAGE/OFFICE SPACE. Two units left. Each unit has; 11 ft. doors, Heat/AC systems, bathrooms. Close to downtown Highlands. Priced at \$225,000. Call Jim Tate 828-371-0773 or Chris Gilbert owner/broker 828-421-3161. ALL RETAIL UNITS ARE GONE.

UNUSUAL RIVERFRONT PROPERTY. Two bedroom, 2 baths, 3-car garage, workshop, carport, concrete driveway, covered porch over looking Culla-saja River, gazebo, spiral stairway up to foyer entrance, washer and dryer, 2-door refrigerator with ice and water dispensers, smooth top range, dishwasher, plus efficiency apartment, much more. On almost level 1/2-acre on scenic Highlands Road only 5 miles from Franklin. Phone owner 828-369-2278 for appointment.

\$395,000.

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

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

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

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

THREE BEDROOM – 2 bath ranch home on approx. 3/4 acre. 2 miles from Highlands-Cashiers hospital. \$240,000. Will consider offer. Ask for Anna. Country Club Properties 828-526-2520

ITEMS FOR SALE

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

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

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

WORKING BUCK STOVE – In good condition. \$200. Call Wayne Clark after 5 p.m. 526-3191.

FREESTANDING BASKETBALL GOAL, with Stand in Excellent Condition. \$25. Call 526-0782

**LARGE WHITE FRENCH PROVINCIAL
CHEST-OF-DRAWERS** - \$175; Queen mattress and box springs - \$150; sofa, excellent condition - \$175; Belgian wood trunk - \$200; four painted wood chairs - \$100; four wood pub chairs - \$80. Call 526-0299.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MICROWAVE – GE spacesaver, 19"x12"x12", black. \$50. 526-5834

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

1 LADIES 26" BICYCLE . 6-speed, very good condition. \$25.00 828-349-3320

**HEAVY BRASS ELECTRIC HANGING FIX-
TURE** – Six green, glass panels, 4 feet of matching

chain. 22-inch diameter. \$975. Call 526-1773.

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

PETS FOR SALE

AKC BLACK LAB PUPPIES – Very healthy, home-raised, loveable. 2 female, 1 male. Call 828-389-9737.

AKC REGISTERED SHELTIES, Sable Merle & Blue Merle. \$300. Call 706-982-9325.

**POMMERIAN/LONG-HAIRED CHIHUAHUA
MIXED PUPPIES** – Adorable fluff balls with beautiful markings. \$200. Call 828-349-3001 or 828-342-9570.

BASSETHOUND PUPPIES, CKC registered. 1st shots. \$250. Call 828-349-3001 or 828-342-9570.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

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

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

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

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

SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Pulling down the shade

Read Luke 4:1-1



Pastor Eddie Ingram
Highlands United Methodist Church

As a pastor, it has been my experience that people are very quick to tell you what they believe or don't believe. Sometimes people share with me their beliefs about Jesus and God and heaven and hell. Sometimes people share with me their beliefs on why women shouldn't be preachers. Sometimes they share with me their beliefs on why we should be taking communion with those tiny cups as opposed to the common chalice. Sometimes people tell me what they believe about the war and abortion. Sometimes people share with me their beliefs on why the organ is the only God-given musical instrument that should be played in church. Beliefs, beliefs, beliefs. Everyone's got beliefs. Every opinion becomes a belief.

When it comes to Christians, I have a difficult time with the way we call ourselves "believers." It's not that Christians aren't believers. Most Christians believe in Jesus Christ as Savior, believe in the resurrection from the dead, believe in God and in the power of the Holy Spirit. But what good really is faith when it is ultimately measured by a system of right beliefs?

In Luke's story of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness by the devil, the evil one himself was a believer in the power of God and in the Messiah-ship of Jesus Christ. If our faith is about right or wrong beliefs, wasn't Satan himself a believer? And by Christian standards, he wasn't just a believer, he had the right beliefs. After all, he really did believe that Jesus was who he said he was – if he didn't, why would he have even bothered messing with him out there in that wilderness? Is this what it means to be a Christian? There has to be something more to it than being a believer.

The well-known preacher Tony Campolo told of an experience he had on a trip to Haiti, the poorest country in our hemisphere. He said, "When I was in Haiti, I was at this restaurant table, ready to eat my meal. I looked to the right, and there were three boys...Dirty and filthy, with swelled bodies and hair thin and rust colored from malnutrition, the boys pressed their noses against the glass, staring at the food on my plate. The waiter, seeing my discomfort, moved in quickly and pulled down the shade, and then he said to me, 'Don't let that bother you; enjoy your meal.' As if I could. But isn't that what we all do? Don't we all pull down the shade?"

There were lots of good German believers who pulled down the shade to what Hitler did to the Jews. There were many good believers around the world who pulled down the shade when genocide was taking place in Rwanda and now in the Sudan. And there were many believers who

• See SPIRITUALLY page 17

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School – 10 a.m., Worship – 11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

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

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

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

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Office – 526-2320
Sunday: Holy Communion – 2 p.m.
(Community Bible Church on U.S. 64 between Highlands and Cashiers)
Visiting Rectors Series: Feb. 18: Steve Kerhoulas; Feb. 21: Rev. Paul Blankinship; Feb. 25: Rev. Gene Mallard.
Tuesday: Women's weekly Bible study at 2 p.m.
Wednesday: Men's Bible study at 8 a.m.
at First Baptist Church
Pot Luck Supper last Sunday of each month.
All are Welcome!

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Brian Sullivan – 526-2968
Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - Breakfast; 9 a.m. - Sunday School;
9:45 a.m. - Choir Practice; 10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite II; 5:30 p.m. – Youth Meeting
Monday: 7:30 a.m. – Stations of the Cross; 11 a.m. – Contemplative Prayer; 4 p.m. - Women's Cursillo Group; 5 p.m. - Evening Prayer
Tuesday: 8 a.m. - Men's Cursillo Group; 9:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting; 11 a.m. – Contemplative Prayer; 4:30 p.m. – EFM Meeting; 5 p.m. – Stations of the Cross; 5:30 p.m. – Dinner; 6 p.m. – Speaker
Wednesday: 11 a.m. – Contemplative Prayer; 5 p.m. – Evening Prayer
Thursday: 10 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with healing; 11 a.m. – Contemplative Prayer; 5 p.m. – Evening Prayer
Friday: 7:30 a.m. – Stations of the Cross; 11 a.m. – Contemplative Prayer; 5 p.m. – Evening Prayer
• Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.

FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN

Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor • 828-369-7977
Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m. (nursery provided)
Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.

Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by childrens
Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Junior & Senior Youth Group 6:30 p.m.;
Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.
Small groups available throughout the week.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7
HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study
Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474
HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376
Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.;
5 p.m. Youth Group
Wed: noon – Men's Emmaus Reunion Group; 4:45 –
Childrens choir and handbells; 5:30 – Supper; 6 – Adult
Handbells; 6:15 – children, youth, & adults studies;
7:15 – Adult choir
(nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)
Thurs:12:30 – Women's Bible Study (nursery)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

Rev. Delmer Chilton, Pastor,
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741
Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30
MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Choir – 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

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

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

... SPIRITUALLY from page 16

pulled down the shade when Jesus hung alone on a cross to die for them. Believing really doesn't cost us anything, because it doesn't require anything much from us than what we were willing to give or not give before.

A pastor with whom I once worked believed that Christ was calling him to preach and speak out against discrimination of African Americans in the early 1970s, but it was only after he spoke out against racism publicly that late one evening a cross was set aflame in his front yard. He discovered years later that the one who had set the cross aflame was a Christian believer just like him – a member of his administrative council at his very own church.

When does a believer become a follower? It's when our beliefs about Jesus Christ become action. It is when we not only believe in the new commandment he gave, that we "love one another," but that the belief is followed with active loving of our neighbor.

For those of us who recognize this time of year as the season of Lent, we acknowledge that the life of Christianity is not about believing as much as following. We have to be honest with ourselves that our tendency is to pull down the shade and ignore human suffering. Social justice is not a political issue as much as it is a Jesus issue. The road we walk along behind Jesus leads to the cross, which is the cost of loving our neighbors as ourselves. Lent forces us to take a good hard look at ourselves and ask if it is really worth it to have such beliefs about a man named Jesus that we will follow him to the cross.

Surveys will help define affordable housing in Highlands

Preliminary results from one affordable housing survey indicate some folks aren't interested in living in Highlands, while some would if there were apartments.

At the Friday, Feb. 23 Affordable Housing Committee meeting members discussed possible construction scenarios, materials and surveys.

Member Dick Lawrence, a builder of apartments in the Virgin Islands and a resident of Scaly, told the group about construction techniques he learned about at the "Home Builders' Show" in Orlando, FL recently. Some techniques were new to him, while others represented techniques he has used in his own development projects.

He said there are "green" building techniques, faux panels for exterior and interior aesthetics, "to try to build an attractive and affordable structure."

He discussed several building systems that don't use wood – an expensive commodity these days – using faux materials, rebar, concrete and block.

However, before the committee looks for property or decides on the type of "working wage" housing it might consider, surveys distributed to the police department and the hospital have to be reviewed.

So far the survey asking such questions as "if you could, would you live in Highlands?" went out to employees at Highlands School. Of the 42 surveys returned, 50% for the people said they "were happy where they were," and 50% said they'd consider renting an apartment, but not buying a home."

Answers like that at least give the committee an idea of what type of housing it should be aiming for. The committee hopes to get surveys back from the hospital and police department sometime next week.

"After compiling the data, we will decide where we should go from there," said committee chair Mary Ann Sloan.

The next meeting is March 8 at 10 a.m.

... SCREENINGS from page 14

that affect someone's overall risk for coronary artery disease," says local cardiologist Dr. Carl Curtiss. "Still it's great to see what appears to be improvement in this one important area."

Curtiss and other area physicians caution that screenings aren't a substitute for talking with your own physician.

"Results from these screenings may or may not indicate an actual medical condition," says family practitioner Dr. Patti B. Wheeler. "If someone has test results that indicate there may be a problem with their health, they should definitely talk with their primary care physician to discuss what, if any, treatment options might be appropriate."

All participants receive their test results by mail, along with a letter from either their local physician, or if they don't have one, a physician selected by the hospital.

The most recent overall screenings results also showed that the number of participants who showed signs of hypertension decreased by half over the prior year, to 7.7 percent. The number of those with higher than normal glucose levels (7.7 percent) also fell, although not as sharply.

Results for other screening tests, such as PSA (prostate specific antigen) tests for men over age 45, varied little over

the prior year.

And the overall number of those who were screened for risk for osteoporosis fell off sharply last year, due mainly to the fact that many participants had already gone through the ankle ultrasound procedure in previous years, either here or elsewhere. Better than half of those who were remaining candidates for the test were men. While many think osteoporosis is a disease that affects only women, some 25 percent of men may be at risk for bone loss. In fact, Beth Worsham of the Haywood Osteoporosis Prevention Program at Haywood Regional Medical Center says men over age 65 have essentially the same risk of developing osteoporosis as women of similar age.

Of the 96 who were tested last season for possible bone loss, approximately 22 percent were found to be likely candidates for more comprehensive diagnostic testing, she said.

"We hope to reach even more people in our service area with the screenings in the season to come," said President and CEO Ken Shull. "These screenings are free to the community and we hope more and more people will take advantage of them each year."

This year's screening schedule will be announced soon.

• SERVICE DIRECTORY •

TRI CITY AUTOMOTIVE
Division of Bobby Woods Chevrolet Pontiac
www.bobbywoodchevrolet.com
kmoneyplays@yahoo.com

1637 Sandifer Blvd.
Seneca, SC 29678

"J." KIRTIS KREMSEK
Sales Consultant

(864) 885-0490
Fax (864) 885-0660
Cell (828) 200-9404

New KIAs, too

avalanche
AN AMERICAN
R EVOLUTION

www.danimalscloset.com

Danimalscloset
I Can Sell Your Unused Items on eBay!

Free Pick-up & Value Estimate
Call for an Appointment

P.O. Box 181
Highlands, NC 28741

Dan Garthwaite
(828) 526 • 5484

Runaround Sue Pet Sitting

• Healthy Homemade Treats
• Birthday Parties
• Pet Photos
• Hand-crocheted Dog Clothing

Sue Laferty
P.O. Box 1991
Highlands, NC 28741
(828) 526-0844
slaferty@aol.com

Don't Scream...

Get the help you need with **TempStaffers!**

Quality help for a day, a week, a season.

526-4946 • 342-9312

The Computer Man!

"But you can call me James"

Products, Repairs, Service & instruction

68 Highlands Plaza • 526-1796 FAX: 526-2936

FIVE STAR
CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

HOME REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS

LIGHT AND DETAIL CLEANING

CALL TODAY 828-332-7201

Small Group Personal Training

Tuesdays & Thursdays
Highlands Rec Center, 8-9:AM

Cardio Conditioning - 30 min
Resistance Training - 20 min
Stretching - 10 min

\$50/ 8 sessions or \$7 per class
342-5029

Susan Nastasic - AFAACertified Personal Fitness Trainer

Local Recording Studio

Book a session today!

Custom Designed CDs, too.

Call 828-278-0518

SUNSET SOUND STUDIO



Senior Alec Schmit takes on opponent Ironmen at his last basketball game for Highlands School, Wednesday, Feb. 21. Photo by Noel Atherton

Highlanders fall to Cherryville

By Christopher Potts

Heart and determination can only carry a team as far as their talent can take them, something the Highlanders learned Wednesday night against the Cherryville Ironmen.

The Highlanders of Highlands ended their magical season with a tough loss against Cherryville in the second round of State Playoffs, 83-61. Highlands could not stop Ironmen center/forward Justin Johnson on either end of the floor, as Johnson scored 39 points and pulled 17 rebounds despite solid defensive positioning by Highlands' frontcourt players. The Ironmen rattled the Highlanders in the second quarter, taking the home crowd out of the game early by scoring 26 points while holding Highlands to 11. A halftime score of 45-24 in favor of Cherryville led the Highlanders into the locker room with questions on how to contain Johnson on the offensive end.

The third quarter of play sparked an urgent defense in the post, as the Highlanders would double and triple team Johnson every time he received the ball below the basket. Cherryville would still capitalize

with guard play, forcing Highlands to stretch their defense as the Ironmen worked the ball around the perimeter for an open shot. Highlands would cut the lead to 16 points early in the final quarter of play with Johnson resting on the bench, but that would be the closest they would get as Cherryville coasted to an easy victory.

Alec Schmitt led the Highlanders with 20 points, 8 assists, 4 rebounds and 3 steals followed by Jason Aspinwall with 17 points, 6 rebounds and 3 steals. Andrew Billingsley scored 8 points, Darin Keener added 6 points and 8 rebounds, Nick Kerhoulas added 6 points, 7 rebounds, 2 assists and 2 steals, and Gray Alexander notched 4 points and 4 rebounds. The Ironmen were led by the Johnson trio in scoring; Justin with 39 points, Kalem with 21 points, and Phillip with 10 points.

The loss closes out the Highlanders season with a record of 26-5, 8-1 in conference. Highlands opens their next basketball season on November 19th, 2007. Congratulations to the boys for being this year's Conference Champions and for bringing exciting basketball to Highlands for another season!

• CP: OFFICE LINEBACKER •

Calling audibles on sports and life

A week of pain



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

This past week has been exceptionally painful to watch on TV. Some of it felt physically painful while other parts were just difficult to stomach. I feel it's once again necessary to bring the pain to my readers with a multitude of issues that have occurred this week.

Watching the Highlanders face off against Cherryville last Wednesday, I witnessed just how well Justin Johnson plays basketball. I had seen his name popping up on Scout.com for rising seniors to watch, and he's drawing interest from a couple of ACC programs in Clemson, Wake Forest, NC State, and Virginia. He's very fluid and has a good low post game, but at the college level he will need to be able to shoot a better midrange jump shot. Overall, it was painful watching him score as many points as he did against a great team in Highlands. Highlands couldn't match the height of the Ironmen at every position.

Sunday became especially painful as the Tar Heels, with all the talent in the world, dropped yet another game to a Maryland team that is on a current hot streak. Up 10 with 6 minutes to go, UNC looked to put the game away on a steal by Bobby Frasor. Instead of laying the ball up against the glass for an easy two points, he tried to finger roll the ball over the front of the rim. The ball clanged off the back iron into the hands of the Terrapins, who moved the ball down the court and nailed a 3 pointer for a quick 5 point swing. The Heels collapsed and lost the game 89-87. Follow that with a UNC loss to Duke on the women's side, and there is a lot to be disappointed about in Tar Heel country.

Corey Dillon, running back for the New England Patriots, has pulled a Tiki Barber... or has he? Dillon has asked to be released from his contract, citing he feels ready to retire (in his prime, much like Barber) so he can still be able to walk and enjoy life with his kids. A day later, Dillon's agent states Dillon is looking for the release so he can work with another team who will give him more carries instead of splitting time with Laurence Maroney. If he's really looking to retire, more power to him. It would liken him to both Barber and Jim Brown status of retiring at a high point in his career instead at the end of his days of playing. Dillon still has a few more years in him, and if he plays elsewhere, I hope it's from a Patriots trade instead of a release.

The most agonizing thing about this past week in sports developed last night during the Bobcats vs. Clippers game in the NBA. Granted, I hate "professional" basketball. It's nothing more than glorified streetball with players attempting to score 30+ points a game with no regards to winning or losing. However, when I saw the replay on Sports-center it made me cringe in pain. Clippers' point guard Shaun Livingston stole an errant dribble, drove to the

basket and attempted a lay-up. Upon landing, his knee gave way and twisted grotesquely, completely dislocating his knee. This is the type of injury that can end a career, and while it was painful to watch, it's more painful thinking that his career could very well be over before it really began.

And on a final note, it pains me once again to go yet another week without a new episode of House thanks to American Idol. Putting Idol before House is a great move, taking House off the air to hear the "talent" Simon wants to produce for an extra hour creates nails-on-a-chalkboard type pain for me.

At least I have the DVDs to watch repeatedly until a new episode comes on.

... BRUGGER from pg. 11

notion of "meaning." We believe in order to have a fulfilling life there must be some kind of meaning attached to it. What if life has no meaning other than the experience of life? What would that "mean"? I love Watts' answer:

"[Life] is a dance, and when you are dancing you are not intent on getting somewhere. You go round and round, but not under the illusion that you are pursuing something, or fleeing from the jaws of hell.

"How long have the planets been circling the sun? Are they getting anywhere, and do they go faster and faster in order to arrive? How often has the spring returned to the earth? Does it come faster and fancier every year, to be sure to be better than last spring, and to hurry on its way to the spring that shall outspring all springs?

"The meaning and the purpose of dancing is the dance. Like music, also, it is fulfilled in each moment of its course. You do not play the sonata *in order* to reach the final chord, and if the meanings of things were simply in ends, composers would write nothings but finales."

Wisdom comes when we stop resisting the fundamental insecurity of existence and embrace change.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going

• 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.

• Beginner Classical Yoga Group meets On Mondays, 5:45-7 p.m. at Highlands Yoga and Wellness, 464 Carolina Way. Mats and blankets provided. Learn the basics and improve your health. Other classes available. Call 526-8880 Ashby or Chad.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Every Tuesday

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

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

Every Third Wednesday

• As part of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin's "Life-Span Learning Curriculum," there are "Wednesday Night Chautauquas" which are media enhanced study sessions at the UU Fellowship Hall in Franklin. A \$5 soup-supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9964.

Fri., Sat., & Sun., March 2-4

• "Caught in the Villian's Web," an old-fashioned melodrama by the Highlands Community Players, evenings 7:30 p.m., Sunday matinee 2:30 p.m. Call 526-8084 for reservations. Tickets are \$15.

March 2

• The Highlands Brownies will have Girl Scout Cookie booths at Macon Bank and First Citizen's Bank from 2-3 p.m.. Cookies are \$3.50 per box.

• Highlands Bolivian Mission Group — Taco Dinner, Friday 5-8:30 p.m. at the Highlands Rec Park \$7.50 at the door

Saturday, March 3

• An open-mic discussion at 2 p.m. at the Rec Park to discuss what we can do as citizens about our escalating property taxes. Come armed with questions and ideas so that we can move forward to protect our homes. Questions? Call Robin at 526-9792. Together, we can make a difference.

• Macon County Senior Games CAR SHOW 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Macon County Recreation Park. Motorcycles included. General Admission is FREE but must be registered and pay \$10 per car to show. Trophy for Best of Show, top 25 Cars, Senior Choice and People's Choice, Best Chevy Ford, Moped, Tuck and Motorcycle. Model car contest for children ages 4 to 15; two trophies will be given one of ages 10-15 and one for 4-8. Cost to enter your model is \$2.25.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike, with an elevation change of 200 feet, to the top of Round Mountain for spectacular views of the state of South Carolina. Meet at Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10 a.m. Drive 12 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please..

Sunday, March 4

• Western Carolina University music department faculty showcase at 4 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church. It's free.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy one-mile hike on the old roads and fields of the Tessentee Farm. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Welcome Center on Hwy. 441 S. in Otto at 2 p.m. Drive 4-miles round trip. 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, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Thursday, March 5

• Win a \$4,500 scholarship to Southwest Community College in the college's Academic Challenge which will be held Thursday, March 15, on the Jackson campus. First-place winners will receive five semesters free at SCC, along with a \$1,000 book budget, for a total value package of \$4,500. Participation in the Academic Challenge is for anyone residing in Jackson, Macon or Swain counties, or the Qualla Boundary. Information is on the SCC website at www.southwesterncc.edu/academicchallenge.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Guerlin at 586-4091, ext. 377.

Tuesday, March 6

• HIARPT's Richard Florida's, *The Flight of the Creative Class*. A portion of the book will be copied and handed the previous week for discussion. Coordinator: Virginia Wilson 10 AM at the Highlands Civic Center. Lunch will follow at 11:30 for those wishing to attend. All are welcome. For information, contact Creighton Peden at cphi2@verizon.net.

March 6

• Episcopal Church Stations of the Cross – 5 p.m.; Soup & Salad – 5:30 p.m.; Speaker the Rev. Jim Yearly – 6 p.m. "Stewardship of Self." All invited.

Friday & Saturday, March 9-10

• The Instant Theater presents the High-

lands Community Players production of *Parallel Lives*, by Kathy Najimy and Mo Gaffney. Directed by Mary Adair Leslie and featuring Katie Cochran, Bonnie Earman, Jenny King, Mary Adair Leslie, Lee Lyons, Nancy Reeder, Jennifer Royce, Breta Stroud, Ronnie Spilton, and Sandie Trevathan. Tackling such subjects as

• See **EVENTS** page 20

Ruby Cinemas

Playing

March 2-15

WILD HOGS rated PG-13

Fri: (4:20), 7:10, 9:20

Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:20), 7:10, 9:20

Mon – Thurs: (4:20), 7:10

GHOST RIDER rated PG-13

Fri: (4:15), 7:00, 9:15

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

Mon – Thurs: (4:15), 7

BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA rated PG

Fri: (4:10), 7:05, 9:10

Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:10), 7:05, 9:10

Mon – Thurs: (4:10), 7:05

MUSIC AND LYRICS rated PG-13

Fri: 7:10

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

Mon – Thurs: 7:10

DREAMGIRLS rated PG-13

Fri: (4:10), 9:10

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

Mon – Thurs: (4:10)

Zany plays coming to ITC



Becky Schilling and Madeleine Davis as Edna and Flo in "Lives of the Saints," one of the four short, zany plays by David Ives presented in the ITC'S evening of *Carpe Noctum Theatre*. *Carpe Noctum Theatre* invites you to "Sieze the Night" on March 16-17, 23-24 at 8 p.m. at The Instant Theatre Company's intimate studio on Main at 310 Oak Square. As usual, when you attend an ITC production, expect the unexpected, and be prepared for outside-the-box comedy. Call the box office at 342-9197. Reservations are strongly suggested as seating is limited. Tickets are \$20. Complimentary wine and beer are served. Four performances only!

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

religion, death, diversity and dating, the play is for adult audiences as it contain strong language and adult content. Call the Instant Theatre Box Office to reserve your tickets at 342-9197. Performances begin at 7 p.m.

March 8

- The League of Women Voters of Macon County will host a program featuring women who make significant contributions to our community. Speakers will include Susie McCoy of Macon Program for Progress and School Board member; Barbara McRae, editor of The Franklin Press; Sissy Patillo, Franklin Town Alderman; and Karen Wallace, director of Fontana Regional Library and head librarian of Franklin Public Library. The program will be held at Tartan Hall of the First Presbyterian Church in downtown Franklin. Lunch is available at noon, by reservation. Call 524-5192 by March 6. The program will begin at 12:15. The public is invited.

March 13

- At the Rec Park at 10 a.m. Manifest Destiny: A New Direction for America, by William Pfaff, from The New York Review of Books, Feb 15th, '07. Coordinator: Walter Burnett. Material will be distributed by e-mail.

- Episcopal Church Stations of the Cross – 5 p.m.; Soup & Salad – 5:30 p.m.; Speaker the Rev. Virginia Monroe – 6 p.m. "Prayer/Spiritual Direction." All invited.

Friday & Saturday, March 16-17

- Lives of the Saints," one of the four short, zany plays by David Ives presented in the ITC'S evening of Carpe Noctum Theatre. Carpe Noctum Theatre invites you to "Seize the Night" on March 16-17, 23-24 at 8 p.m. at The Instant Theatre Company's intimate studio on Main at 310 Oak Square. Call the box office at 342-9197. Reservations are strongly suggested as seating is limited. Tickets are \$20. Complimentary wine and beer are served. Four performances only!

Tuesday, March 20

- Episcopal Church Stations of the Cross – 5 p.m.; Soup & Salad – 5:30 p.m.; Speaker the Rev. Buck Hanks – 6 p.m. "Bible Study." All invited.

- HIARPT's Faith and Politics: How the Moral Values Debate Divides America and How to Move Forward Together by Senator John Danforth. Coordinator: Don Mullen 10 a.m. at the Highlands Civic Center. Lunch will follow at 11:30 for those wishing to attend. All are welcome.

Friday & Saturday, March 23 & 24

- Lives of the Saints," one of the four short, zany plays by David Ives presented in the ITC'S evening of Carpe Noctum Theatre. Carpe Noctum Theatre invites you to "Sieze the Night" on March 16-17, 23-24 at 8 p.m. at The Instant Theatre Company's intimate studio on Main at 310 Oak Square. Call the box office at 342-9197. Reservations are strongly suggested as seating is limited. Tickets are \$20. Complimentary

HCP's Parallel Lives coming to ITC



The Instant Theater presents the Highlands Community Players production of *Parallel Lives*, Friday and Saturday, March 9 & 10 and 30 & 31. The play is by Kathy Najimy and Mo Gaffney. Directed by Mary Adair Leslie and featuring Katie Cochran, Bonnie Earman, Jenny King, Mary Adair Leslie, Lee Lyons, Nancy Reeder, Jennifer Royce, Breta Stroud, Ronnie Spilton, and Sandie Trevathan.. Tackling such subjects as religion, death, diversity and dating, the play is for adult audiences as it contain strong language and adult content. Call the Instant Theatre Box Office to reserve your tickets at 342-9197. Performances begin at 7 p.m. Pictured are Sandy Trevathan, Bonnie Earman and Lynn Lyons.

wine and beer are served. Four performances only!

Tuesday, March 27

- Episcopal Church Stations of the Cross – 5 p.m.; Soup & Salad – 5:30 p.m.; Speaker the Rev. Gray Temple – 6 p.m. "Forgiveness/Reconciliation." All invited.

- HIARPT's Walt Whitman's Leaves of Grass. Coordinator: Bill West 10 a.m. at the Highlands Civic Center. Lunch will follow at 11:30 for those wishing to attend. All are welcome. For information, contact Creighton Peden at cphi2@verizon.net.

Friday & Saturday, March 30-31

- The Instant Theater presents the Highlands Community Players production of *Parallel Lives*, by Kathy Najimy and Mo Gaffney. Directed by Mary Adair Leslie and featuring Katie Cochran, Bonnie Earman, Jenny King, Mary Adair Leslie, Lee Lyons, Nancy Reeder, Jennifer Royce, Breta Stroud, Ronnie Spilton, and Sandie Trevathan.. Tackling such subjects as

religion, death, diversity and dating, the play is for adult audiences as it contain strong language and adult content. Call the Instant Theatre Box Office to reserve your tickets at 342-9197. Performances begin at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 3

- Episcopal Church Holy Eucharist, in the Chapel, 5:30 p.m. All invited.

- HIARPT's "Frozen in time: the disabled nine-year-old girl who will remain a child all her life." From The Guardian (UK) and other sources. Coordinator: Beverlee Kritz. Brief reading material will be sent by email and also be available at the preceding session. 10 a.m. at the Highlands Civic Center. Lunch will follow at 11:30 for those wishing to attend.

Saturday, April 14

- Hurricane Creek at the Instant Theatre at Oak Square on Main Street. Come dance the night away beginning at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20. Complimentary wine, beer and mixed drinks. Call 828-342-9197 for tickets and reservations.

... FORUM continued from page 2

homes, if everybody cuts the trees down so all they can see is everybody else who has cut the trees down, if the river is no longer a gem, if the trout are gone from the creeks and the sky is red at night, if there are no lovely farms left or country stores or old houses tucked in coves — the tourists and retirees and all those looking for beauty and tranquility will go somewhere else. And those of us who are here for the long haul will lead diminished lives, not only because of the bust of the economic boom but because we will have lost so much else that makes our lives here good. My neighbor, whose family has lived here since the Civil War said yesterday, "It's not a pleasure to sit on the porch anymore."

Taking a more direct approach, there are changes that can be made in tax policy and exceptions to existing ones that might help us. (I am not an expert on tax policy by any means — I've just been looking in to it in response to inflated property evaluations.)

One of the most direct ways to keep your property out of the development market is to put a conservation easement on it. The wonderful and very dedicated people at the Land Trust for the Little Tennessee or the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust will work with you if your property is productive farmland or has other conservation values. A conservation easement lets the landowner set clear limits on development and specify the good stewardship methods to be used on the land, while reducing the assessed value, since this land is not going to be cut up into lots. NC tax law stipulates that land permanently protected by conservation easement should be assessed on that basis rather than at market value, which should lower your property taxes.

However, no clear guidelines for assessment have been established yet and we need to encourage our legislators to do that, so that each county isn't left to make its own interpretation. The state and federal governments do provide for income tax deductions for donated easements, and possibly reduced estate taxes.

An extremely important program that everyone should know about and support is the Present Use Value program for agricultural, forest, and horticultural land, which significantly lowers the assessed value of such land, giving a tax break to landowners using their land for these purposes. We would be foolish to assume that we will not need farmland in the future and to not see it as a responsibility to the whole community to keep agricultural land viable.

Currently, efforts are being made in North Carolina to establish a new

• See FORUM page 22

... LETTERS continued from page 3

Debate on carbon emissions

Dear Editor,

What is all the fuss against Earth-warming and "Greenhouse Effect." I for one am all for it. With all the hapless airline travel disasters recently and many deaths due to the raging blizzards and ice storms striking the northern states, one wonders, why not let the temperature increase!

Besides, to me the whole ploy of 'carbon footprint' is nonsense. HEAT is the co-product of carbon dioxide production in burning hydrocarbons, as in gasoline and fuel oil. Carbon dioxide, being an essential ingredient in the production of all of our green grasses, plants and trees is rapidly absorbed. So why worry? After all, water vapor is by far the most abundant 'greenhouse gas' in our atmosphere.

We don't hear a single voice raised crying for dryer air! Alas ..knowledgeable scientific observations wilt in the face of sensation-mongering, pitiful, political polemics!

Pete Sarjeant, (PhD) physics
Highlands

Playhouse declines offer of civic center

Dear Editor,

The board of the Highlands' Playhouse would like to thank the Town Board for the use of the Woodruff Civic Center in 2006 and for the board's offer to use the Woodruff Civic Center for four days in 2007 for the Highlands' Playhouse Antique Show.

Following a discussion with hour participants in the antique show, we realized we would be unable to secure contracts for the show because of the limited time you offered for the show. Therefore, with much regret we must move the location of the antique show from Highlands.

Beginning September 2007 and continuing for the next five years with an option for another five years, The Highlands' Playhouse Antique Show will be at the Sapphire Community Center. This year's show will be open to the public Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 28, 29, 30 with the Preview Party on Thursday, Sept. 27. The center was able to offer us the space starting Monday, Sept. 24 for setting up.

This was an extremely tough decision due to the tremendous support given to us by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, the merchants and the citizens of Highlands.

We thank you for your offer and support in the past.

Dwight E. Bryant
Highlands Playhouse Board

• THANK YOUS •

In memory of Sarah Houston

The family of Sarah Houston would like to thank all those that have kept us in your thoughts and prayers. They were needed. Thanks to all those who sent the lovely cards and letters. They were greatly appreciated in our time of grief and sorrow. A special thanks to Walter and "The Girls." Your friendship is a shining example of what friendship truly means. Our hearts are on the mend thanks to all of you.

The Houston Family

... BOARD continued from page 7

the same purpose. "We're there for children; they're the future of county. I'm happy to help and will do the best I can."

Swank currently serves on the library board as fundraising chairman. She also chaired the 2025 committee on planning for Macon County and has served on the county planning board in the past.

Gooder resigned because of an email sent on Friday, Dec. 15, 2006 from finance and personnel director Betty Waldroop instructing school officials to stop purchasing from Gooder's business, Gooder Graphics.

School Attorney Henning said "North Carolina law contains a prohibition against conflicts of interest for elected members of governing bodies, as well as the employees thereof."

Gooder disagreed with the board's opinion on the law and even considered legal action. He claimed the board's actions were meant to force him out, and that the board had not cooperated with him in the past when he requested information on applicants and interview summaries for hiring approvals.

... ETJ continued from
page 1

and Merlin Crowe, whose property is in Rolling Acres, both zoned R4, asked that their properties be zoned B5 because of their historical commercial use and because property similar to theirs in the ETJ area was zoned B5.

"Our businesses are surrounded by residential areas just like theirs," they said referring to the Chambers and Keener property on Flat Mountain Road. At an early meeting, Commissioner Herb James agreed saying it didn't seem fair.

Commissioner Hank Ross said commercial property in R1-ETJ areas not contiguous with other commercial property or on corridors should be consistent with surrounding properties. "Currently this map isn't consistent," he said.

The board agreed and rezoned the Rogers and Crowe properties R1-ETJ but also rezoned the Chambers and Keener properties R1-ETJ from B5.

At Commissioner Alan Marsh's suggestion, areas proposed R2 by the planning board both because of what is allowed in the R2 zone – modular and manufactured homes — and because of the underlying watershed lot size allowance of ½ acre – were changed to R1-ETJ.

Bob Nass, owner of Skyline Lodge, wanted the residential lots surrounding the lodge to be zoned B5 like the lodge proper because once the lots are sold and homes built, Skyline rents the homes out as vacation rentals. Nass considers that a commercial venture and he said the arrangement helps people pay their mortgages.

In addition, Nass asked that four lots abutting the south side of the lodge be zoned B5 so he could build two four-unit condominiums on them. In 2003, he got a septic permit from the county and it took four lots to satisfy the septic perk requirements. Commissioners agreed to extend the B5 designation only to those four lots and only because the permit – which he produced — was obtained so many years ago.

Nass said the town was taking away his rights and disregarding his economic investment past and future. "You're taking away the economic viability of my hotel that I planned for 14 years ago," he said.

One of The Moorings lots – a condominium complex on Zachary Road off Hicks – was mistakenly mapped R1 and had to be rezoned R3.

The Morris family, whose home on N.C. 106 is surrounded by B5 parcels, asked that their property be rezoned from R1-ETJ to B5.

"Prior owners had a business establishment and we purchased the property knowing that and assumed that we would be able to use the property for a business in the future," said Susanne Morris.

Commissioners sent her request to the Planning Board because it hadn't been heard before.

– Kim Lewicki

...ON THE VERANDAH

"...Highlands Most Scenic Dining



RE-OPENING FOR OUR 27TH SEASON

on Friday, March 16.

We will be open on
Fridays and Saturdays for
dinner from 6 p.m.

828-526-2338

Wine Spectator Award Since 1987
RESERVATIONS SUGGESTED
otv1@ontheverandah.com

Manley's Auto Service

1597 S. Fourth Street
828-526-9805

Complete Auto Care
Towing Service Available
U-Haul Rentals
• ASE Certified



Manley's Towing Service

526-9805 or 342-0583

- 24 Hour Service
- AAA provider
- Local & Long Distance Hauls

James "Popcorn" Manley
Owner/Operator

... FORUM continued from pg. 20

classification for wildlife management land to receive reduced assessments. As our landscape is further and further fragmented, wild life will suffer, and individuals who are keeping land on which wildlife can thrive are doing a service for the rest of us.

Tennessee has a Greenbelt Program that provides present use valuation for open space land as well as agricultural land. The reasoning is that open space provides benefits to the public in enhancing the value of surrounding land, in conserving natural resources, and in relief from sprawl. (If lands in these programs no longer qualify — that is, they are developed or used for other purposes — then past taxes must be paid, so that one can't just use the programs to shelter property from higher taxes.) This would be a good time to talk to your state elected representatives to let them know you support the expansion of the Present Use Value program or the establishment of a similar program for open space.

Davidson, North Carolina has established a Rural Reserve Program in which property owners voluntarily restrict their property to its current use and thus qualify for a lower assessment. It's similar to the Present Use Value program, but is done just on a local basis.

Another tax policy change that would appeal to a wide range of landowners — from conservationists to property rights advocates to old time Maconians trying to hang on to their family land — is the Homestead credit.

North Carolina does have a very minimal homestead credit for low-income elderly people. But it could be extended to all citizens, on their primary residence. If a property is your primary residence, you would get a tax credit that a property owner of a second — or third or tenth — home would not get. This would be especially fair in an area like Macon County where most of the growth is in second homes, primarily for relatively wealthy people from other more developed areas, to whom our real estate costs are affordable.

In many places around the country, especially places of great beauty, the locals get priced right out. The NC coast is one example, and the mountains are not far behind. There's talk of the necessity of the town of Highlands investing in working-wage housing so teachers and workers and other not highly paid but essential people can still live there. Again, talk to your state legislators and urge them to extend homestead credits to all primary residences.

These measures are ways in which taxation can be more fairly distributed, with those who are using services paying more for them than those who aren't. A highly relevant economic study, *Fiscal Impact of Alternative Land Uses in Macon County*, by Jeremy Jones and Susan Kask, shows that open space such as farmland, forest, and undeveloped land generates more public revenue than it receives back in public services, while residential property costs more in services than it pays. A recent compilation of nation-wide data on cost of community services by the American Farmland Trust shows working land and open space costing an average of 36 cents per acre in services while residential land costs \$1.16.

The recent revaluation here demonstrates the truth of those studies. Our taxes are not going down because of the growth boom in residential properties; rather our need for revenue to pay for services and infrastructure is growing.

The argument that we need growth for an increased tax base has been disproved, as it is seen time and time again that development is not paying its own way. I haven't heard of a single instance in which taxes have

gone down in response to development. Of course, growth and development have benefits for sectors of the economy. But that doesn't mean that each property shouldn't carry its own weight in taxes.

As our county grows and changes, for the quality of life of our residents and for continued appeal to tourists and new homebuilders, we need good land use planning, good environmental protection, good historical preservation, good building and design and

fair tax policies.

• Susan Ervin has lived in the Oak Grove community with her husband, aquatic biologist Bill McLarney, for 23 years, on a narrow dirt road in a small house surrounded by gardens and forest on the banks of the Little Tennessee River. She is an advocate of land use planning and conservation, and is a member of the Macon County Planning Board and League of Women Voters..

• POLICE & FIRE REPORT •

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Feb. 17-27. Only the names of persons arrested or public officials have been used.

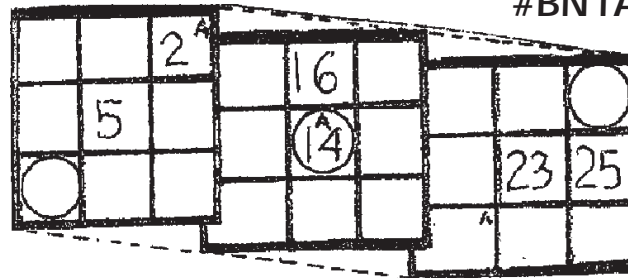
Feb. 17

Breaking and enterings with larcenies were reported at 259 Wyanoak, 240 Wyanoak, 224 Wyanoak, 215 Wyanoak, 101 Wyanoak, 135 Wyanoak, 154 Wyanoak, 164 Wyanoak, 180 Wyanoak, 81, Wyanoak, 388 Wyanoak, 85 Hickory Hill, 341 Chowan Drive, 62 Vinca Lane, and 192 Dogwood. Arrests are pending.

Feb. 20

PseudoCube®

#BN1A



THE SETUP:

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

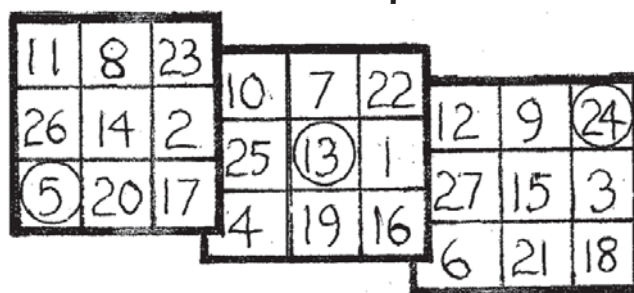
THE CHALLENGE:

Start with the three center numbers for each layer and 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 for Feb. 22 puzzle #AZ3B



• At 11:30 a.m., police received a report of someone communicating threats to a juvenile at Highlands School.

Feb. 23

• At 6:33 a.m., a motorist at Cobb & N.C. 106 was cited for speeding 54 mph in a 35 zone.

• At 4:25 p.m., a motorist at Hicks & Mirrormont was cited for not wearing a seat belt.

• At 4:45 p.m., a motorist at Hicks & Mirrormont was cited for driving without a license.

• At 5:30 p.m., a motorist at Hicks & Mirrormont was cited for driving without a license.

• At 5:50 p.m., a motorist at Hicks and Mirror Lake was cited for driving without a license and for not wearing a seat belt.

• At 4:19 p.m., a motorist on Hicks Road was cited for driving without a license.

• At 4:34 p.m., a motorist on Hicks Road was cited for driving without a license.

• At 5:34 p.m., a motorist on Hicks Road was cited for driving without a license.

• At 8:15 a.m., there was a gas drive-off at the Farmers Market.

Feb. 25

• At 4:15 p.m., a breaking and entering with larceny of \$670.64 was reported at Cyprus Restaurant.

Feb. 27

• At 2 p.m., Andrea Wolkodoff Gabbard, 41, of Scaly Mountain, was arrested for communicating threats to a juvenile.

Over the week, officers responded to three alarms.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Feb. 21-26

Feb. 21

• The dept. responded to a smoke alarm at the Cold Springs stable but it was unfounded.

Feb. 23

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

Feb. 24

• The dept. provided mutual aid to Scaly Mountain and stood by while that dept. fought a brush fire.

Feb. 26

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at OEI which was set off by workers.

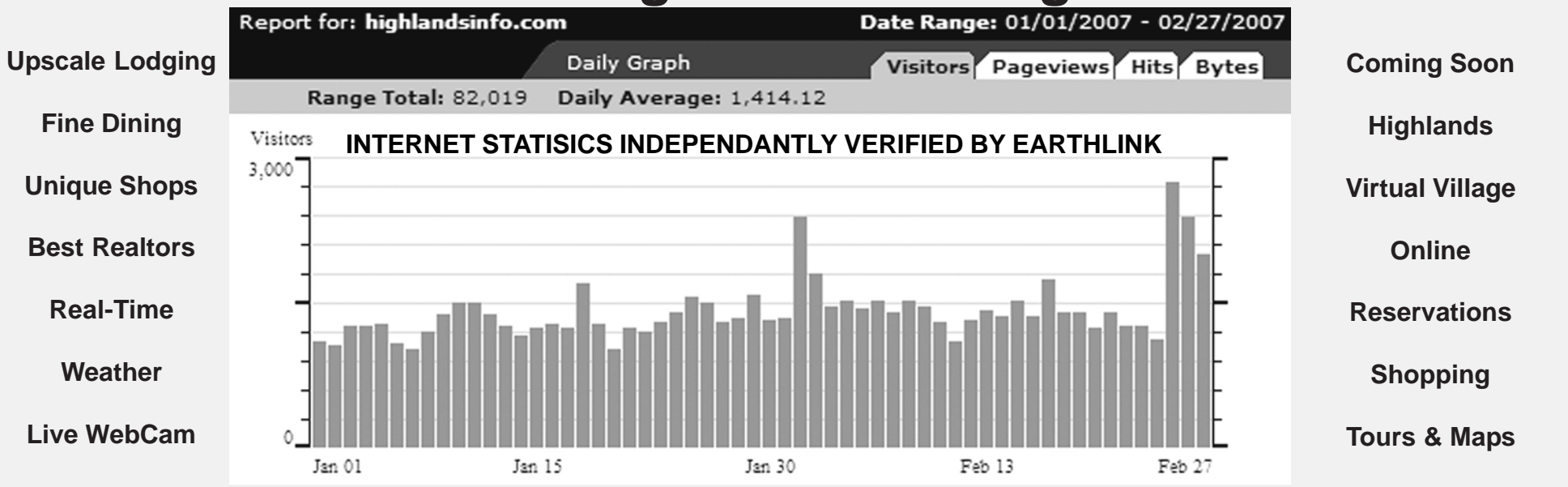
• The dept. put out a brush fire at Tug Wa Ridge development.

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



MAP DOTS \$250 Annual Fee	1 Summer House	4 Outdoor Tool	7 Century 21	10 Macon Bank	13 Grinning Frog	16 SMC Realty	19 New 2007
	2 Tin Roof Gallery	5 Skyline Lodge	8 Mtn Golf Properties	11 Fairfield Realty	14 Rand Soellner Arch.	17 Hampton Inn	20 Updates
	3 On The Verandah		9 Buyers' Real Estate	12 TUBBY Tubing	15 HomePlace Blinds	18 Brew Bird Cafe	21 Coming Soon

2007 - Record Breaking Levels For HighlandsInfo.com



Highlands' Newspaper Circulation: 7,500 Weekly - 30,000 Monthly - Your Best Source For News & Information

If you are reading this ad & not advertising with us already - you should be!

Highlands' Newspaper continues to be our areas most read publication - Hardcopy and/or Internet PDFs. Everyday people download back editions of Highlands' Newspaper - Your advertising goes a very long way.

Find It All On This Map

Upscale Lodging, Fine Dining, Unique Shops & Best Realtors

LODGING

- 01) Main Street Inn
- 02) Mitchell's Lodge
- 03) Mtn High Lodge
- 04) Old Edwards Inn
- 05) The Lodge

DINING

- 07) Brick Oven
- 08) Bucks Cafe
- 09) Cafe 460
- 10) Cyprus
- 11) Don Leon's
- 12) Fressers
- 14) Highlands Deli
- 15) Hill-Top Grill
- 17) Madison's
- 18) Main Street Inn
- 19) Nick's Restaurant
- 21) Pescado's
- 22) Pizza Place
- 23) Rib Shack
- 24) SweetTreats Cafe

REAL ESTATE

- 31) Buyer's Realty
- 32) Century 21
- 33) Chambers Agency
- 34) Country Club Prop.
- 35) John Cleaveland
- 36) John Schiffl
- 37) Keller Williams
- 38) Meadows Mt Realty
- 41) Acorns
- 42) Black Bear Furn.
- 43) Custom Coverings
- 44) Dry Sink
- 45) Highlands Cabinet
- 46) Highlands Decorat.
- 47) Old Rangoon
- 48) Out on a Limb
- 49) Summer House
- 50) Twigs
- 51) Wholesale Down
- 52) Bird Barn
- 53) Christmas Cottage
- 54) Grinning Frog Toys
- 55) Needle Point
- 56) Why Not Knit

HOME DECOR

- 41) Acorns
- 42) Black Bear Furn.
- 43) Custom Coverings
- 44) Dry Sink
- 45) Highlands Cabinet
- 46) Highlands Decorat.
- 47) Old Rangoon
- 48) Out on a Limb
- 49) Summer House
- 50) Twigs
- 51) Wholesale Down
- 52) Bird Barn
- 53) Christmas Cottage
- 54) Grinning Frog Toys
- 55) Needle Point
- 56) Why Not Knit

GIFTS

- 52) Bird Barn
- 53) Christmas Cottage
- 54) Grinning Frog Toys
- 55) Needle Point
- 56) Why Not Knit

BOUTIQUES

- 60) AnnaWear
- 61) Bungalow Boutique
- 62) Cabin Casuals
- 64) Coolcats Hotdogs
- 65) Jolies
- 69) Nancy's Fancys
- 70) Shops of O.E.I.
- 71) The Exchange
- 72) Village Kids
- 73) Vivace
- 74) Wits End
- 76) Highlands Gem
- 77) Highlands Fine Art
- 78) Kent Ltd
- 79) Silver Eagle
- 80) #1 Nails
- 81) All Seasons Salon
- 82) Creative Concepts
- 83) Images Salon/Spa
- 84) Mountain Magic
- 85) Pro Nails
- 86) Taylor Barns Salon
- 87) The Very Thing

BEAUTY & SPA

- 60) AnnaWear
- 61) Bungalow Boutique
- 62) Cabin Casuals
- 64) Coolcats Hotdogs
- 65) Jolies
- 69) Nancy's Fancys
- 70) Shops of O.E.I.
- 71) The Exchange
- 72) Village Kids
- 73) Vivace
- 74) Wits End
- 76) Highlands Gem
- 77) Highlands Fine Art
- 78) Kent Ltd
- 79) Silver Eagle
- 80) #1 Nails
- 81) All Seasons Salon
- 82) Creative Concepts
- 83) Images Salon/Spa
- 84) Mountain Magic
- 85) Pro Nails
- 86) Taylor Barns Salon
- 87) The Very Thing

ANTIQUES

- 90) Elephants Foot
- 91) Mirror Lake Antiques
- 93) Shiraz Oriental Rugs
- 97) Mill Creek Gallery
- 98) Robert Tino
- 99) The Very Thing

ART GALLERIES

- 97) Mill Creek Gallery
- 98) Robert Tino
- 99) The Very Thing

SERVICES

- 100) ComputerMan
- 112) Drug Stores
- 115) Highlands Office
- 116) Jack Mayer
- 117) Nantahala Tire
- 118) Schmitt Builders
- 119) Woodworks

OUTFITTERS

- 120) Bear Mountain

Highlands Map

www.HighlandsInfo.com

Main Street Inn



MILL CREEK GALLERY

Village Square

Breakfast & Wine Bar
Open To The Public

Performing
Arts Center

Community Players

Madison's



Wine Spectator

Mountain Fresh Foods



Real-Time Weather
& WebCam

Highlands' Newspaper Hardcopy & PDFs
Our Areas Most Read Publication
HighlandsInfo.com - #1 Directory For 4 Years
Circulation: 7,500 Weekly - 30,000 Monthly

