

Highlands' Newspaper FREE

Volume 5, Number 20

PDF Version - www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, May 17, 2007

- On-going**
- Step Aerobics at the Rec Park, 4-5 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays. \$5 per class.
 - Exercise classes at Health Tracks at the hospital. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.
 - Live music at Fressers in Helen's Barn with Cy Timmons 6 p.m. until.
- Friday-Sunday, May 18-May 20.**
- HCP's 'Enchanted April' is at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. Evening performances at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees begin at 2:30 p.m. Call: 526-8084 for reservations.
- Friday & Saturday, May 18 & 19**
- The Playhouse will be holding auditions for "Kiss Me Kate" at 6 p.m. Friday, and from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday. Several young men in their late teens to early 30s; two older men in the 35 to 50 year range; and two to three young women between 18 and 30. Candidates should arrive with a monologue and be prepared to sing one song without an accompanist For info call 526-2695.
- Friday, May 18**
- Book signing at Cyrano's Book Shop, at 390 Main Street from 5-7 p.m. Marisha Pessl "Special Topic in Calmth Physics."
- Saturday, May 19**
- Live music at Cyprus Restaurant at 9:30 p.m. Shane Perloin Group - modern, intellectual jazz. \$10 cover.
 - Country Supper with live music featuring Johnny Webb & the J.W. Band, 5-9 p.m. at High Country Cafe. \$19.95.
 - Book signing at Cyrano's Book Shop, at 390 Main Street from 1-3 p.m. Rob Neufeld "A Popular History of Western North Carolina -- Mountains, Heroes & Hootniggers."
 - Spring Fling Dance with Hurricane Creek at the ITC Studio on Main. For reservations call the box office at 828-342-9197. The doors open at 7:30 p.m.
 - Highlands-Cashiers Hospital FREE Health Screenings. Pre-registration is required Call t526-1434.
- Sunday, May 20**
- Brunch fundraiser-auction set for Le family at Wolfgang's at 2 p.m. Please make reservations by calling Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro at 526-3807.
- Monday, May 21**
- Art League of Highlands monthly meeting at the Civic Center. Refreshments at 5; program at 5:30.
 - Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours at Oak Street Cafe. 6 p.m. \$20 per person.
- Thursday, May 24**
- The Highlands Rotary Club's evening of Bingo at the Highlands Community Center. 6:30-8:30 p.m.

New millage rate decreased to 24.5 cents

The county's proposed budget for 2007-2008 was presented to the Macon County Board of Commissioners Monday night and it revolves tightly around the revenue neutral tax rate of 24.5 cents per \$100 valuation.

Members in the audience,

who have lobbied long and hard for a mil rate of 25 cents — including the waving of miniature "Mil Limit 25" on sticks at meetings — were pleasantly surprised. "Where are your little signs on sticks?" chided County Manager Sam Greenwood. "I have a little

stick for you...a mil rate of 24.5." The new rate reflects a drop of 12.5 cents per \$100 property valuation. A penny on the new tax rate will yield approximately \$874,500 in revenue for the county. Due to escalating property • See MILLAGE page 16

Firm to take over pole plant audit


McGavran Engineering's proposal to perform a pole attachment and general system review of Highlands' pole plant got the green light Wednesday night with a 4 to 1 vote.

At the May 2 Town Board meeting, commissioners deferred their decision on contracting with McGavran pending a reference check of the engineering firm. Commissioner Alan Marsh checked several references and learned that the firm comes highly recommended and municipalities who contract with it see a substantial financial gain in their pole attachee business.

One of McGavran's selling points was getting the town the "going rate" for attachments on utility poles. The town charges \$10 a pole rather than the going rate of \$10-\$15 per attachment on a pole. In many cases Verizon and Northland have multiple attachments on poles.

Pole change-outs is a thorn in the town's side because it's an expensive and timely project. But McGavran said since Verizon and Northland need the town's utility poles and need their attachments to be in compliance on those • See POLE page 12

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
61-43°F	70-46°F	72-49°F

HS Band wins big in GA



This past Saturday the high school band took their first trip to a music festival at "Music in the Parks" at Six Flags Over Georgia and did an outstanding job. They performed at Chapel Hill High School in Douglasville, GA, and received a rating of Excellent which is the second highest rating. The students played better than anyone expected, got some great comments from the judges, and received the band's first trophy. The group spent the rest of the day in Six Flags Over Georgia. Pictured at Highlands School is Band Teacher Kristina Kirchner with her high school students.

Commission reworks boards

As of July 1, 2007, the make up of several boards and committees in town will change.

Of most interest is the Planning Board.

At the May 16 Town Board meeting, commissioners voted 4 to 1 to remove Doug Campbell from the Planning Board and replace him with Thomas Craig.

"I just think we should put someone in from the ETJ area instead of someone who lives outside the city limits," said Commissioner Alan Marsh.

Commissioner Herb James voted against the motion. "I think we should let him serve out his term," he said.

Commissioner Amy Patterson said the board's stance has always been to allow people to serve out their terms, but things have changed.

"We have new processes and new controversies and we need to realign the Planning Board with people who are actually being served," she said. "We need some-

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Town to get promised Rec Park funds

After a prolonged locking of horns, the county has authorized the payment of 2006-2007 Rec Park funds to the town of Highlands.

Some years ago, the county agreed to continue to give the town \$500,000 a year to help fund operational costs associated with the Rec Park. Trouble began when the Town Board asked the county to consider increasing the allocation due to a general increase in "the cost of doing business."

After much deliberation between the Town Board and County Commission, the winter of 2006 it was agreed that the \$500,000 would continue for operating expenses, and additional funds might be allocated for capital expenses to town recreation facilities as long as prior approval was granted and only if the expenses exceeded \$10,000. They also agreed that consideration for more than \$500,000 a year for operating expenses might be allocated in future budget years if the town could produce the evidence that its expenses to operate the Rec Park had increased.

For years, the county has had \$675,000 in the budget for the town — \$500,000 for wastewater treatment plant expansion reimbursement and \$150,000-\$175,000 for recreation expenses.

After the wastewater expansion ended, the money kept coming — only earmarked for recreation. However, with the initial

• See REC PARK page 11

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

• LETTERS •

From my perspective



Mayor Don Mullen

The turnout was good at the Pine Street Park meeting at the community center last week. It was important that the community had an opportunity to express its views on the very important project for our town. What looks like a mess over on Pine Street right now soon will be a center of beauty and activity. Several different plans were presented to the group and the general feeling by almost all people present was to close down Pine Street permanently and create a park with lasting significance. I am sure most people have seen the proposed drawings of possibilities in the newspapers. Both the town and the Pine Street park committee are very much interested in comments from others on these proposals, and everyone will get another chance to express their feelings at the second meeting which will be held June 7 at the community center. I hope all interested in this important project will come with their ideas and suggestions.

Last Friday we began the process of planning for a new Town Hall. The architectural firm of Sorin and Fisher in Asheville spent the day here in Highlands getting preliminary information concerning the needs of each department. They will return later on to talk with each commissioner before they begin to put together a plan and suggest a place for our new town hall. It is an exciting time. We certainly want input from the citizens of Highlands on this project as well and welcome comments from the public. The past, present and future are all important to us as we put together a building which will be an integral part of our community for many years to come.

On Friday I attended the Law Enforcement Memorial Day program on the square in Franklin. We are

•See MULLEN page 27

Government for which people?

Dear Editor,

If ETJ and zoning are so good for Highlands as our Town Commissioners want us to believe, why is public opinion so strong against it? Why was Highlands Falls which has more restrictive rules than Highlands so opposed to being controlled by the town? We were told all of this was being done to protect the watershed. One of the major streams in the watershed comes through Highlands Falls; does it not need to be protected? Highlands Falls is free to change their rules at any time; they are not bound by the town. They could relax their rules if they choose. I realize that the probability of this happening is only slightly greater than someone putting a Burger King in Clear Creek or Horse Cove!

Another reason for zoning was to control density. After looking at the development where Nick's restaurant was, that doesn't seem to be a reason either. I am not opposed to what is being done there. They bought the property, maintain it, pay their taxes and should be able to do what they want so long as they don't damage other property.

The point is: the town told us ETJ was to protect the watershed. Then they exclude Highlands Falls which includes a major stream in the watershed; and, include Clear Creek and Horse Cove which will never be in the watershed. Perhaps it is time for the Town Commissioners to tell us what is the real purpose of ETJ and zoning!

Government is supposed to be "of the people, by the people and for the people." When running for office, Mayor Mullen said; "I want to give control of Highlands back to the people!" Who has he given it too? I haven't met any of them yet! The Town Commissioners won't even listen to their own boards even though they appointed the majority on those boards. What has happened to government in Highlands?

It is time for the people who can vote in Highlands to make the town government accountable!

Harold Neely
Highlands

Highlands Newspaper is a splendid creation

Dear Editor,

The best thing I can do today is to tell you what a great newspaper you are publishing. The style is good, the format is excellent and the contents are varied, interesting and informative. Some even quite entertaining. What more could one ask for?

I was especially taken by your story in the May 10 issue "No good deed goes unpunished." You went through quite an ordeal while trying to be a good citizen. You indicated that the woman who lost the wallet relentlessly pursued you as a suspect. Do you think that she ever gave a thought to her own carelessness?

Next, I must tell you how much I enjoy your columnists. Fred Wooldridge is a clever wordsmith and always presents an interesting point of view. Dr. Henry Salzarulo is a man of good judgment and expresses himself very well. His opinions are well thought out and are pretty darn solid. Now, Don Swanson is a real winner. He should have his own TV and radio show as does Bill O'Reilly. This man is really good.

More and more I'm beginning to enjoy Katie Brugger, the column His & Hers as well as the mayor and the local ministers. All of these earmarks make your newspaper well balanced and a good read. You also do a pretty darn good job getting advertising. I just don't see how it all gets done - and so well at that.

Tom Merchant and I do a bi-weekly program at Chestnut Hill, "Newsworthy." While Tom uses a lot of material from The New York Times, I address a lot of issues from Highlands' Newspaper. We have some very lively discussions.

Congratulations to you for the splendid newspaper you have created. Highlands and all of our citizens are better for it.

Horace Duncan
Highlands

Is Highlands moving toward police-state?

Dear Editor,

I am writing in regards to certain new regulations discussed in "Alcohol permits required of nonprofits" in the May 10 issue of Highlands' Newspaper.

With the ridiculous regulation, it

•See LETTERS page 12

LETTERS-TO-THE-EDITOR POLICY

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

Highlands' Newspaper

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• OBITUARY •

Edith Louise Schultz

Edith Louise Schultz, resident of Fidelia Eckard Living Center in Highlands, died peacefully in her sleep on May 13, 2007. She was attended by her daughter Gail Flynn of Highlands. Edith was a career woman and a master seamstress, creating exclusive, custom designs in New York, Florida and Atlanta, Georgia. Edith always had a sparkle in her eye and was well known for her exceptional beauty. She was born, Edith Louise Koehler on February 5, 1914 in Queens, New York. She had a passionate and creative spirit for life, particularly in the areas of sewing, gardening, dancing and decorating. She was a resident of Wantagh, Long Island, New York, New Port Ritchie, Florida and Highlands.

She is survived by her daughter Gail Flynn of Highlands and Atlanta, Georgia, grandchildren, Kevin and Christie Flynn of Ruxton, Maryland, Michael Flynn of Fayetteville, Georgia, Christopher Flynn of Tokyo, Japan, grandson, Jack Ryan Flynn of Ruxton, Maryland, niece Marilyn Wagner of Safety Harbor, Florida and beloved family companion, Millie the dog.

A service was held in Highlands at Bryant Funeral Home at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 15. An additional service and interment will be held in Hempstead, Long Island, N.Y. In lieu of flowers, the family requests all memorials go to the Cashiers Highlands Humane Society, P.O. Box 638, Cashiers, North Carolina 28717, in honor of Edith Louise Schultz.

Public to hear county height ordinance draft June 18

Though there is still some confusion about what constitutes "the top of a foundation," the county's height ordinance is set for a public hearing, Monday, June 18 at 5 p.m.

The final draft is about a month overdue because it was taken under advisement at the April Macon County Commission meeting, when Commissioner Bob Simpson suggested it only apply to commercial structures and not residential structures.

After investigating the matter, at Monday night's commission meeting County Attorney Lesley Moxley reported that all structures must be treated the same way and the county can't differentiate between building types.

"Since there isn't an adopted land use plan or zoning in Macon County, whatever height ordinance you adopt must stipulate that all structures have the same height restrictions," she said. "Without the land use plan and zoning, the ordinance's purpose is to promote public safety as it applies to firefighting capabilities and will be enforced under the county's general police powers."

As the ordinance reads: "The purpose of this chapter is to regulate the height of structures in such manner as to promote the public health, safety and welfare. This purpose is achieved by allowing construction of buildings to a maximum height of 48 feet...or four stories, whichever is less..."

Measurement begins at the top of the foundation; the foundation being that portion of a load-bearing wall below the level of the adjoining grade or below the first floor beams or joists.

However, the use of I-beams placed on foundations prior to beginning construction of the first floor, caused concern to Commissioner Bob Simpson..

"If someone has to measure from the top of the foundation instead of the top of the beam, then they could be losing three feet of height allowance," said Commissioner Bob Simpson. He also questioned where the top of a foundation should start.

The commission discussed various options at length – whether to stipulate a number of feet a foundation can be above grade before it must be considered the foundation regardless of whether the first floor starts there or higher and regardless if the entrance to the first floor is accessed via a stairway.

In the end, Chairman Charlie Leatherman said it would be best to keep the ordinance as simple as possible. "Let's just pick a number. The number 48 was arbitrary. Let's make it 50 feet and that will make up the difference for those instances when a beam is placed on the foundation prior to starting the first floor," he said. "The top of the foundation is usually what supports the first floor. The only difference is two or three feet one way or the other."

In any case, the ordinance will be heard at the June 18 public hearing.

"You aren't voting on its adoption until after the public hearing," said Moxley. She said input from the public might change the wording anyway.

Meanwhile, the commission charged County Planner Stacy Guffey to find out at what height the county's firefighting capabilities are jeopardized.

Public outcry over a proposed high-rise condominium in Highlands caused the county to declare a moratorium on high-rise buildings until an ordinance was drafted. Moxley said the moratorium could be lifted after a final version of the ordinance is voted on by the commission following the public hearing.

– Kim Lewicki

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Voting for Elmer Fudd

There are a huge number of voters in this country who will vote along their party lines even if Elmer Fudd, the old comic strip character, is the candidate for president. You must know people like that. You might even be one. If you're not sure where you stand, ask yourself this question. When was the last time I voted for a candidate other than from my party?

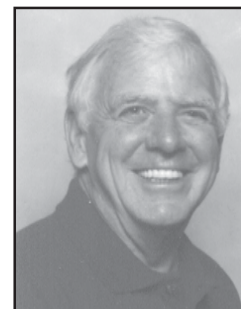
If you happen to be one of those "duh" individuals, then this particular column is not for you. For the few remaining, prepare to get your shorts in a wad.

My Pa was a Republican, his Pa was a Republican and probably his Pa before that was a Republican. So, on my 18th birthday, my Pa took me by the ear and marched me down to the courthouse where I registered as a Republican. Yes, if Elmer Fudd were running on the Republican ticket, I would have been required to vote for him, not that it would have mattered since the people don't actually elect their president anyway. I am sure if you are a "dyed-in-the-wool" Democrat whose daddy was a Democrat and whose granddaddy was a Democrat, you can relate.

Flash ahead many years and you'll find I am a different man. I would like to think I have grown in both wisdom and maturity. Oh, I'm still a registered Republican, but only because I'm too dad-gum lazy to remove myself from the books. I have, long ago, dumped them as my party. The main reason is political corruption. I despise corruption. Since the Democrats are just as corrupt, I have no where to turn. I am a man without a party, living within a political system that is totally corrupt. Cynical, you say? Or could it be I am a realist who has seen too much of life.

There is no system in place where the little guy can get elected without a multi-million dollar machine behind him. From mayor to president, money is the fuel that drives a candidate to power. How do politicians get multi-million dollar machines behind them? That's easy: political corruption. Political favors and back-scratching have become an art form with lobbyists at the controls. They call it "just plain ole politics." I call it "just plain ole corruption."

Over 100 million dollars has already been contributed to presidential candidates for the 2008 election and it's still 20 months away. How many hungry



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged! email:

askfredanything@aol.com

people can we feed with 100 million dollars? How much health care could be given to the needy with that money?

What would be the motive of a company or corporation to donate huge amounts of money to a candidate? Believe me, it's not love of country, it's pork. The goal is to own a politician.

Why don't we cut off the pork? Make it illegal for anyone to give even a nickel to a candidate running for office. Make it illegal for a candidate to use his own

money to run for office. Then, 30 days before the election, conduct a series of television debates paid for by taxpayers' money. The winners could go into office without being owned by anyone. If that system of electing candidates was ever initiated, you would be shocked to see the number of competent statesmen that would come forward and run for office simply because they loved this country. Many honest Americans don't currently run because they hate the corruption.

Since that's not going to happen and since there's no third party person I can vote for, I am left with few choices: vote Democrat or Republican and support the corruption, vote for Elmer Fudd as a write-in candidate and make a buffoon of myself or third, not vote at all. We are told that if we don't vote, we are wasting our God-given right as an American to exercise our freedom. For years I bought into that bunk, but now realize that by not voting, I get to vote against the corrupt system now in place. Can you imagine the shock to this nation if no one showed up to vote? What a wake-up call that would be for Washington bureaucrats.

So join me, along with 52 percent of Americans who already don't vote, mostly out of disgust, and elect not to vote in 2008. If you can't do that, then write in your vote for Elmer and make a buffoon of yourself because that's better than voting Democrat or Republican.

It's my view and I'm stickin' to it!

'Enchanted April' at PAC

Friday-Sunday, May 18-May 20, it's Highlands Community Player's production "Enchanted April" is at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees begin at 2:30 p.m. Call: 526-8084 for reservations.

• ANOTHER VIEW •

A world away

The sun set silently behind the stern of our ship a few moments ago. Darkness is settling quickly over this equatorial paradise, the low hills of the island of Espanola barely visible against a darkening sky.

Welcome from the Galapagos Islands. For two days we've wandered through and wondered at this pristine place. We've watched sea birds, blue-footed boobies, and albatrosses sitting on nests on the hard scabble ground. The nest is nothing more than a few scraps surrounded by guano. We've seen hordes of magnificent frigate birds vying for mates. Terrestrial and marine iguanas abound, so unconcerned with our intrusion that I would have stepped on one had Bull not warned me of its presence. We approached sea lions lounging on the beach, our distance from them limited only by our respect for national park prohibitions against touching the inhabitants and the presence of vigilant naturalists who reminded us of the rules when the magnetic attraction became too strong to resist.

This afternoon we swam with sea lions, reef fish and a gigantic sea turtle. The sea lions welcomed their new playmates. The turtle seemed disinterested in his human escort. Gulls and terns of many varieties rest on rocky cliffs and fill the skies.

We are in paradise, a land protected from most of man's abuses. We have several days remaining here and then we'll retrace the steps of the Inca in Peru.

After that we'll return to civilization, to reports of scandals in Washington and blood shed in Iraq. At this moment I can only guess that Attorney General Gonzales and World Bank President Wolfowitz continue to serve with the full confidence of President Bush. It is unusual to sack a high ranking appointee on a weekend.. Maybe next week. Maybe not. It doesn't matter to the animals of the Galapagos. There are more important concerns — attracting mates, finding food, evading predators, and continuing the their species. They are unconcerned with evolution, the process that made these islands famous. Their only interest is today; select a mate, sit a nest, protect the hatchling.

NBA games and golf tournaments don't matter down here. Neither animals, natives, nor tourists discuss world events. Not one of the guests on board has



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.
email:
hsalzarulo@aol.com

mentioned international or financial news. I've heard that a news summary from the New York Times is printed each morning, but I haven't bothered to look for it. Whenever I go the gym in Highlands, the TV is tuned to a cable news channel, usually at my club, a financial news channel, as if knowledge of the day's trading will inspire a better workout. Here our discussions revolve around frolicking with sea lions,

swimming with turtles, and watching the birds. There are always birds. Birds on wing and birds on nest. The magnificent frigate inflates a brilliant red bag under his chin until it is the size of a toy balloon at a child's birthday party and apparently as attractive, at least to a female frigate.

We gather around laptops and marvel at one another's work, always with more than a hint of jealousy. Cliff, a professional photographer from Detroit, has shot over 2,000 images in two days. Regis, an amateur, is a Frenchman who lives in Boston has shot several hundred. I have watched Lizzie and Bull fire away. Their aggregate must have reached three or four hundred. I'm shooting film rather than digital in my underwater camera, so I've only taken 50 pictures, and it will be days before I know if I got anything good

Being in a place like this demands that one re-examine priorities. Is the preservation of the giant tortoise more important than another 50 points on the Dow? Is the financial health of Exxon-Mobil, its investors and employees of greater importance than the health of the planet and her inhabitants? Birds here continue sitting on their nests as we pass. Iguanas and sea lions warm in the tropical sun oblivious to our presence. They have learned that, as individuals, we pose no threat, that it is safe to welcome or ignore us.

A 150 years ago, whalers, and pirates hunted the giant tortoise to extinction on the island of Floreana. Healthy populations remain on some of the islands.

Do we, the human race, pose a threat to our planet and to this fragile ecosystem greater than that the buccaneers, whalers, and settlers once brought here?

Places like the Galapagos need special protection because they retain much of their original character. The rest of the world requires no less protection because so little of it remains unspoiled.

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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

The Mule Flag



Katie Brugger
k-brugger@hotmail.com

Several years ago I learned about the many flag designs popular in the United States during the Revolutionary War period. I had always heard about Betsy Ross and the Stars and Stripes; I didn't know there had been competing designs. There were numerous variations on my favorite, the "Don't Tread on Me" theme, showing a rattlesnake coiled, ready to strike, with its tail of 13 rattles raised in warning (google "Gadsden flag").

In December 1775, an anonymous article was published in *Pennsylvania Journal* (widely believed to have been written by Benjamin Franklin) in support of the adoption of this flag as the national symbol: "The Rattle-Snake is found in no other quarter of the world besides America...The rattlesnake also has sharp eyes, and may therefore be esteemed an emblem of vigilance...She never begins an attack, nor, when once engaged, ever surrenders: she is therefore an emblem of magnanimity and true courage...she never wounds 'till she has generously given notice, even to her enemy, and cautioned him against the danger of treading on her."

I liked this image of our country; I was sorry that we didn't adopt such a vivid symbol and instead used something so abstract.

But now I think another symbol would be better for this country. I'm thinking our national flag should feature a mule.

I'm from Missouri, the "Show-Me State." The mule is our state animal. We're supposed to be stubborn, and my husband would assure you that I am extremely stubborn.

I was reading an article about compact fluorescent lightbulbs in the *Washington Post* last week when these statistics jumped out at me: "The current market share of CFL bulbs in the United States is about 6 percent, up from less than 1 percent before 2001. But that compares dimly with CFL adoption rates in other wealthy countries such as Japan (80 percent), Germany (50 percent) and the United Kingdom (20 percent). Australia has announced a phase-out of incandescent bulbs by 2009, and the Canadian province of Ontario decided last week to ban them by 2012."

The article goes on to say that even among people who profess to care about the environment and are "willing to change their behavior" to make a difference, there is still tremendous resistance

to, well, changing their behavior.

We are one of only three countries in the world that do not use the metric system (the others are Libya and Burma). Talk about stubborn — those over 40 will remember the push the federal government made in the 1970s to switch the United States over to metric, and the people just refused. We

collectively sat down like a mule and said no.

"Too much trouble to learn something new." "Why should we do it just because everyone else is doing it?" "We're number one, doesn't that count for something?" "Besides, it'll cost too much to switch everything over."

But has it ever occurred to you how much it must cost us *not* to use the metric system? I've done a little research on this and I haven't been able to come up with any figures, but just think about it a little. Companies that manufacture products must make one version for the United States and another for other countries.

Our science teachers have to teach two systems of measurement instead of one. Once you get above basic science the English system is left behind and everything is done in metric. Which is why I was so surprised when the loss of the Mars Climate Orbiter in 1998 was attributed to the mix up of measurement systems. No one at that level uses anything but metric! But one of the subcontractors, Lockheed Martin, provided thruster performance data in *pound* force seconds instead of newton seconds (the metric measurement). The spacecraft was intended to orbit Mars at about 150 km altitude, but the incorrect data meant that it probably descended to about 57 km and burned up in the Martian atmosphere.

Another good example of the mulishness of the American people is their automobiles. I liked the way an article on MSNBC.com put it: the U.S. is "stuck in reverse when it comes to offering consumers a wide selection of fuel-efficient vehicles... The research from the Civil Society Institute, a not-for-profit think tank that focuses on energy and ecological issues, found that the number of vehicle models sold in the United States that achieve combined gas mileage of at least 40 miles per gallon actually has dropped from five in 2005 to just two in 2007 — the Honda Civic hybrid and the Toyota Prius hybrid... In Europe, cars on average get 40 mpg, compared with 20.4 mpg for U.S. cars." (MSNBC.com, Feb 28, 2007)

• See BRUGGER page 12

• HIS & HERS •

Jeffrey has escaped and other tales of divorce

First, quick recap for folks who don't watch daytime TV. Dr. Phil has just wrapped up a four-show orgy of marital disaster on Jeffrey and his wife-for-now, Jennifer. To make a long story very short, Jeffrey is the ultimate control freak – filling their house and cars with cameras and remote-controlled listening devices, making wild accusations against her to her and to all friends and relatives. He even went so far as to give himself a fake vasectomy scar because, as he said, "Having another child has always saved out marriage before."

Suffice to say, watching this self-justifying egomaniac try to protect himself against Dr. Phil, other specialists brought in, and even the normal people in the live audience for the show, was like watching a rattle snake wrestler bringing in a very large, very deadly rattler.

What I found interesting was that Dr.



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

Phil's producers made the decision to feature this loon on four whole shows, whereas a normal show of his would cover two or more families in one hour. The final Jeffrey hour showed him jumping out of a limousine and into L.A.

traffic to hop a cab to the airport to race his wife home to Virginia, rather than return to the treatment center he'd previously been in.

He wound up back in Virginia, under a domestic restraint order, which he violated immediately and extensively, and is now in jail awaiting trial. And all this brings us to today's subject, which is divorce.

Divorce is always an indication of failure, though sometimes it is a failure OF the marriage, not failures IN the marriage. In retrospect, Jennifer should never have married Jeffrey, and wouldn't, if she had recognized how seriously unbalanced he was. Much more often, it is failures IN the marriage which bring it down.

Divorce was also in the news statistically this week, as an article appeared noting that the instance of

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divorce in the U.S. had dropped from 50%, to a recent low of between 35 and 40%. Two reasons for the decrease were given; more couples are living together

• See HIS & HERS page 15

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A fundraiser is being held at Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro on Sunday, May 20 from noon to 2 p.m. There will be a fabulous buffet lunch as well as an auction of items and services donated by local businesses. All proceeds will go to the Le family. Please make reservations by calling Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro at 526-3807. The event is to be held Sunday, May 20 from noon to 2 p.m.



An artists rendition of the interior of the main gallery which is a two-story barn relocated to the site. The interior will be a space of wood beams, barn wood floors and white sheetrock which will showcase the artwork to be displayed in three galleries upstairs and down throughout the structure.

Bascom-Louise Gallery unveils latest blueprints for new visual art center

Bascom-Louise Gallery held a special sneak preview last Friday night, May 11, to showcase the latest architectural renderings of its new visual art center.

The audience, composed of early donors to the gallery's capital campaign, watched as gallery Board Chair Bob Fisher unveiled the most recent rendering of the center, allowing them to sense the look and feel of the future campus. The facility will be constructed from July through early summer 2008 on a sweeping spread of property housing the historic Crane Barn at the end of Oak Street.

The audience also got to see the latest elevations and plans from the architects, DeWolf Architecture in Highlands and Lord Aeck and Sargent in Atlanta, as well as three-dimensional images reflecting the 32-foot-high lobby atrium.

But perhaps the most exciting news of the night came when Fisher announced a generous donation that will make possible the signature entry feature of the Oak Street campus: a historic covered bridge. Originally, the Bagley Covered Bridge was constructed in the early 1800s in Warner, New Hampshire, and was disassembled in 1966. It will be reassembled over the creek on the Oak Street site as the Will Henry Stevens Bridge, a gift from Dorothy and Jimmy Coleman and Dian and Tom Winingder.

Fisher told the crowd the gallery has already raised \$5 million against a total budget of roughly \$9 million for the campus from 560 donors in the community.

"The concept for our visual arts campus has grown from when we kicked off our campaign this time last year due to the wonderful ideas and the generous financial support offered to us by the many mem-

bers of the community," Fisher said. "With this continued support, we can make what was once a dream into a reality."

Kaye Gorecki, artistic director, discussed the plans in detail, walking the crowd through the virtual space and how it will be used for the many art classes and exhibits the gallery will offer.

"The new center will provide the space and inspiration for a marvelous convergence of creative energy," Gorecki said. "We are thrilled to present a world-class gathering place to our Bascom-Louise family, our community and exceptional artists from the region and the nation."

Patrick Taylor, head of the gallery's Facilities Committee, described how the Crane Barn is being transformed from a former stables into a pottery and sculpture studio. The barn will be meticulously disassembled and then recreated into the studio and kiln barn, while leaving the historic look and feel of the structure intact.

"We are trying to preserve the historical character of the barn to a point that when someone rides toward the barn, though we have transformed the inside, they will think it has been like that forever," said Taylor, retired head of the Piedmont College art department who will be the director of the gallery's pottery program. "In other words, appearance-wise, it should be just as it's always been. But functionally, we're making a transformation from a stable to where people can work and create."

Fisher also introduced Jessica Connor, the gallery's new Director of Marketing and Administration, as well as the many board members in attendance.

Financing for the art center is being provided by First Citizens Bank.

Mountain Garden Club installs new officers



Donning their favorite hats, most whimsical hats or just plain fun hats, members of the Mountain Garden Club took a break from digging plants for their Annual Plant Sale scheduled for May 26, 2007, to hold their Annual Luncheon and Installation of officers. This year the luncheon was held at the Wildcat Cliffs Country Club and was hosted by Pegi Willard. During the business portion of the luncheon, President Jeannie Chambers announced that during the recent state meeting the Mountain Garden Club received four awards: The Janene Curtis Smith Bird Award, The Conservation Award, The Margaret Holcon Environmental Award, and The Katherine Williams Year Book Award. Officers for the 2007/2008 year are President Jeannie Chambers, First Vice President, Eloyce Richardson, Second Vice President, Pud Brogan, Recording Secretary, Jackie Hills, Corresponding Secretary, Carol Strunk, Treasurer Pegi Willard, and Parliamentarian, Anita Williams.

SCC and Early College explain programs

By **Susanna Hearn**
Reporter

The Macon Early College Program and the new Southwestern Community College building in Franklin took center stage at the Thursday, May 10 League of Women Voters meeting.

Special guests Connie Haire, Vice President of the Macon campus of Southwestern Community College, and Gary Brown, Principal of the Early College, discussed the opening of new campus in fall and the progression of the Early College Program (MEC).

"The early college initiative began in 2003. It's a second option that appeals to students who want to accelerate their education, and some students who prefer a smaller and quieter environment," said Brown. "SCC has been an outstanding and supportive partner for the Early College Program."

The program has been operating out of the old Cartoogechaye school building since the Fall of 2006. The MEC will be located at the new SCC campus in Franklin this fall. The program is funded in part by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the state of North Carolina.

"It's been a learning experience for all of us — a good learning experience," said Brown. "We start out with college level Physical Education classes and study skill classes. Two thirds of the students took introductory Spanish classes at the college level. We had wonderful results with that."

According to Brown, MEC was not in the picture when the new SCC building was on the drawing board. Students in the program are taking early morning classes to take advantage of empty classrooms.

"We are going to formalize a request to county commissioners for another building," said Haire. The five classrooms at the old building will be used after the move to the new building and they are full. The classes in the new building are full for fall."

Haire expects that the move into building will occur in July after the caulking and painting are completed. The building is wireless so that students can bring laptops and connect to the internet anywhere they want.

"We had 250 unduplicated students for the fall and 225 students in the spring, which includes Early College students," said Haire. "We are hoping to have as many this fall."

MEC is in the process of recruiting students for the coming year and already have 36 students who are signed up for the program. "Sometime down the road we would like to expand that number," said Brown. "It's an option for students who don't think they can go to college."

"There are a lot of students who think \$6 an hour or \$10 an hour looks good," said Brown. "They take the study skills class and it gives them a different mindset. The students begin to think, 'I can go to college.'"

Haire and Brown both noted that students behaved more maturely in classes with college-aged students. "We had students taking a psychology class," said Haire. "The teacher said she didn't know the difference. They were good, solid B students. As they progress they will take more college classes and less high school classes."

"These youngsters are motivated," said Haire. "They are beginning to see themselves as college students instead of high school students."

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The pyramid consists of blocks stacked 13 high, evidently representing the original colonies. The eye represents the "Eye of Providence" sometimes interpreted as the eye of God keeping watch over humankind. It is commonly interpreted by many as an enlightened few, separated from the base of the pyramid, which is the rest of mankind.

The motto, "Annuit Coeptis," translates "to favor or smile upon endeavors or beginnings." George Washington saw it as the "Eye of Providence," God, looking favorably on the efforts of the founding of our country. The foregoing elements were recommended by Secretary of Congress Charles Thomson when he put together the final design of the Great Seal in June, 1782.

This leaves the legend, "Novus Ordo Seclorum," to be explained. Traditionalists say that the translation "New World Order" is inaccurate and should be taken as "the New Order for the Ages." Frankly, I have a hard time understanding the difference. Why does it appear on our currency? What does it mean, if anything, to you and me?

In past columns, I have alluded to forces which are shaping our society which either are difficult to explain or defy explanation entirely. Why the dumming-down of our schoolchildren? Why the exportation of our jobs to everywhere but here? Why the widespread persecution of all things Christian? Why the attack on our country from within and without? What's going on in the universe, anyway?

Just assume, for the sake of conversation, that there has been and is a group (or groups) of elitists, folks who consider themselves "enlightened" who can see what's best for "all of God's children," who visualize a world where almost everyone is incidental to the determination of their own destiny. The "elitists" would handle your destiny because they are smarter than you are and know what's best for you.

If this philosophy really existed, how would the chosen few pull this off? Well, you'd need to strip the great unwashed of their independent spirit and make followers out of them. And how would that be



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

accomplished? By making them inadequate to make contributions to the betterment of man, i.e., do a meaningful job, create and maintain a family, you'd create conditions which encouraged parental disrespect, disrespect for authority, allowing and encouraging vulgarity and immorality. Recognize any of these conditions?

In the late 1700s, a group formed in Bavaria

calling themselves the Illuminati, a group who considered themselves "enlightened." This organization and spin-off organizations are considered by many to be the original driving force (if you discount ancient philosophers) of the New World Order. Some consider this activity to exist only in the minds of conspiracy theorists. Let's fast-forward to

the 20th century and look at the efforts of David Rockefeller.

Rockefeller's father, John D., Jr. was a "world citizen" and influenced his son with his globalist views. In 1954, David was invited to the initial meeting of the Bilderberg Group in Holland. The Bilderbergs were formed to include about 100 prominent persons of influence from Europe and the United States. Their purpose evidently is to exchange information and influence their governments toward unity between the nations involved. While the direct connection escapes me, the European Union was formed in 1957.

Rockefeller was upset with the organization's willingness to add Japan to the list of contributing countries, and founded the Trilateral Commission in 1973. He had read a book written by Zbigniew Brzezinski which espoused the theory that North America, Europe and Japan had to work together to protect existing global economic interests and agreed that this must be done. The Commission determined that they must influence the choosing of governmental leaders favorable to their aims. The otherwise inexplicable election of Jimmy Carter is an example of their power.

Meanwhile, the Council on Foreign Relations is an organization formed by David's father, John D., Jr., in the 20's for the purpose of promoting understanding of foreign policy and America's role in the world. David Rockefeller joined in 1949 and became the chairman of the board from 1970 to 1985. It has a broad and diverse membership of well-known leaders of government and industry.

All of these, for whatever reason, strive to create a one-world government, for better or worse. More to follow.

Health department gaining on septic permitting

The environmental health department is making progress, but "client pending permits" plague inspectors.

At the May 14 Macon County Commission meeting, Environmental Health Supervisor Barry Patterson reported as of May 8, the backlog of septic permits was at 167 with the oldest application not yet assigned dated at March 1.

He said the current turnaround time is now only eight to nine weeks. "These numbers are down from the worst case last fall of more than 650 applications in the backlog and a turnaround time of 26 weeks," he said.

One issue not factored into the backlog count is the number of "client pending" permits. "We get out to a job site and find it's not ready for us," he said. "The property lines aren't designated, or the flags are in the wrong place, so we can't complete the job."

Commissioner Jim Davis, on the Public Health committee, said some changes have to be made at the policy level. "These changes will make the inspectors' time spent more efficient," he said. "The fact that the site isn't ready is something the staff has no control over."

Patterson said about five permits come out of the "client pending" category a month and about 15-20 of them expire but they still represent unfinished work.

He said the loss of a staff member in March halted the department's projected goal - that of a backlog of 138 permit applications and a turnaround of six weeks which he projected back in February.

With authorized staffing down to five, the department is once again behind the eight ball. "We will be back to six authorized staff this week and we are aggressively recruiting to fill the seventh position," he said. "Our goal is a 4-6 week turnaround

in the summer months and a 2-3 week turnaround in the slower winter months."

He said to keep the backlog at bay, it is crucial to recruit authorized personnel and to keep them. "We are working with the County Human Resources, the county manager and the Board of Health to develop a salary and incremental incentive structure to keep the excellent staff we have," he said.

Besides dealing with septic permits, the Environmental Health Department has to conduct more than 800 food and lodging inspections and 100 swimming pool inspections per year. In addition to that, 1,800 animals per year are inoculated for rabies.

He said other concerns of the department involve about 50 cases of straight-piping in the county and the increasing number of failing septic systems the county is seeing. "These systems were installed in the 1970s and they only last 25-30 years at best. There are a lot of old systems out there," he said. "We are seeing a significant rise in failing systems." Patterson said those issues are on the back burner but need to be addressed.

An additional authorization from Ra-

leigh, effective January 2008, mandates that the Environmental Health Department also inspect wells.

"Barry and his staff have a lot to deal with in addition to their other duties," said Commissioner Davis. "The problem is the manpower to handle all these jobs is coming from the same labor pool for all the counties."
- Kim Lewicki



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... REC PARK continued from page 1

purchase of the Zachary Field property on Buck Creek about eight years ago in its budget, the county tried to keep the allocation for the Highlands Rec Park operations at \$500,000.

After the verbal agreement the winter of 2006, county commissioners said they waited for the proper paperwork from the town itemizing and separating operational expenses from capital improvements to verify that \$500,000 was needed and to see if an increase was warranted.

"The Recreation Committee was supposed to sign-off on the Recreation Department budget and forward that information to the county for consideration," said County Manager Sam Greenwood.

Highlands Rec Park committee members are Commissioners Dennis DeWolfe and Amy Patterson and the District I Com-

• See REC PARK page 13

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... BRUGGER from page 6

And it's not just Europe and Japan leaving us in the dust. "Indeed, in a 2004 study by the Pew Center on Global Climate Change that normalized mileage rules in top auto markets, U.S. rules ranked dead last, and the gap will only

widen as scheduled hikes overseas take effect. China, for example...recently unveiled mileage goals that are 22% more demanding than today's U.S. levels, and should be 35% stricter still come 2008." [Business Week, "Getting More Miles To The Gallon - Fast" Sept 26, 2005]
There are plenty of examples of the

U.S. behaving like a mule internationally in the last 10 years, from the Kyoto Protocol on global warming to the International Criminal Court.
I'm imagining the new American flag: the mule is in profile, it's sitting down with its front paws dug in and ears back. It ain't budging.

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... LETTERS continued from page 2

appears as if we are moving closer and closer to a full fledged police state. This in combination with prospective immigration raids will add to existent economic problems of the town as well as in Western North Carolina as a whole.
Complimentary beer and wine and hard liquor have been available at charity events in Highlands for as long as I have been a resident. This practice adds considerably to the returns of all existing well known organizations in this town and to my knowledge, have never caused a problem for our law enforcement organizations.
I also sincerely object to the requirement that applicants for a temporary liquor license must submit themselves to a background check. This is an insult to our community and to the many people that work very hard at all the fundraising activities of this town.
I would suggest that these public servants would be better served in policing and apprehending those dealers and sellers of drugs in our community, mostly well known to law enforcement.

Dick Lawrence
Scaly Mountain

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 19

kicked back. You danced. You even dared to share some of your fun and frolic with us. Please don't change your ways in the coming months and years. Such eccentricities will lead many sad souls to the Lord of the dance.
As comedian Steve Martin says: "Joy

is more than a dish washing detergent." Joy is the by product of God's everlasting love which we are to enjoy. We are trustees of it. "We've got it down in our hearts to stay." When the flute is played here in these hills, we are the very ones who ...dance. (Amen)

... POLE continued from page 1

poles, his firm can arrange for the cost of change-outs to be shouldered equally by the town, Northland and Verizon.
"With two other entities putting money into the pot, more money would be available, so the poles could be changed out faster than if the town was just relying on its own budget," said Ed McGavran at a previous meeting. "But a solid contractual agreement is needed to get any of that started."

"If we can recoup some of the cost of changing out the poles, I think this is a good option," said Commissioner Amy Patterson.

Commissioner Herb James said he had no doubt town crews could handle the job, but he liked the "package deal" McGavran offered. "They will do the pole audit, tag the poles and do the contract, too," he said.

Besides walking and documenting the plant, McGavran Engineering would draw up a contract for current and future attaches outlining fees and agreements. The firm would also be the conduit between all attaches and the town, holding attaches to the contract and forcing them to comply when necessary. McGavran said his firm's costs would be absorbed by the attachee and the town would see increased revenue, as well.

That part of the proposal would cost up to \$20,000.

Town Engineer Lamar Nix said his team could do everything but the contract part of the job for \$26,000 and could have the work completed by Sept. 13, "at the latest."

"I looked back at our records and saw what it would take to go back and re-establish the number of attachments per pole and then move on to finish the system and overestimating the time, that's what we can do it for."

McGavran would charge \$25,000 for a comprehensive documentation of the pole plant and has since agreed to include the tagging of the poles in that price. He said he could have the plant documented in 60-90 days.

Commissioner Hank Ross voted against contracting with McGavran. "I'd rather give the job to Lamar and his staff to complete. They would have had 50 percent of it done by now but we stopped them because of the McGavran proposal. I've seen what's in the computer system and the lion's share of what we need is there," he said at the May 2 Town Board meeting.

Mayor Don Mullen previously said he was impressed with Ed Sullivan, the arbitrator at McGavran. "He is very experienced in dealing with these types of companies and negotiating and that's the help we need."

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• A REVIEW •

The allure of HCP's 'Enchanted April'



The cast as they appear prior to the enchantment of April in Italy.

This truly is the Highlands Community Players' year to shine.

The directors, actors and set designers have moved into another realm. It was obvious something was afoot with the group's recent production of *Parallel Lives*. Exploring sensitive issues in the Instant Theater Company's black-box setting illustrated the scope the group is capable of.

HCP's current play in production, "Enchanted April" could have been like all their other period pieces – well done, well crafted, with wonderful sets and costumes, truly a fun night out – but it too, in a very magical way, moved the group beyond its norm.

Ronnie Spilton's staging and directing exemplified exactly what the characters were experiencing – the suffocating, dark, drab, rainy existence of Hampstead, England in April morphing into the airy, light, stimulating, sunny existence of San Salvatore in Mezzago, Italy. There their lives were transformed from the restrained to the unrestrained.

Adding to the mix are some new faces, and that's always refreshing.

This time it was Jim Loring who plays Mellersh Wilton, the stuffy, boorish, self-centered husband of Lotty Wilton, played by veteran actor Madeleine Davis. This is Jim's first time on the stage, but it's not at all obvious.

Though all the characters are transformed in one way or another during the play, Lotty Wilton, whose idea it is to rent a castle on the Italian Mediterranean – is transformed most of all.

This might be Davis' crowning part with Highlands Community Players. You'll see expressions and gestures only hinted at

in previous parts. She is big on this stage, as she moves from darkness into light, evoking magic and enchantment.

Another new face is Gina Pauratore, who plays Lady Caroline Bramble, a wealthy singer. She goes to Italy with Lotty Wilton, Mrs. Groves, a snobby London matron played by Jody Read and Rose Armott, played by Becky Schilling, to escape the rigors of a glamorous life in the spotlight.

Pauratore is not new to the stage and it shows.

A wonderful aspect is the splattering of Italian spoken while at the castle between owner, Anthony Wilding, played by Stuart Armor who truly is a linguist, and Costanza, his housekeeper played by Shirley Williams and Lady Caroline.

The comfort each character brings to their roles whether speaking English or Italian adds a dimension never before felt during a HCP performance.

Schilling as a desperate Hampstead housewife, is great. The scene she and Davis perform in the train bound for Italy is particularly good.

Jim Gordon always delivers and doesn't let the audience down this time either as Frederick Armott, Rose's husband, who ventures into another's arms due to an unhappy marriage.

Before the show is over though, every character and every member in the audience is transformed by the magic of this enchanted April in Italy portrayed by the Highlands Community Players.

Buy your tickets today. There are three more shows Friday through Sunday. Call 526-8084 for information.

– Kim Lewicki

... REC PARK continued from page 11

missioner on the Rec Park Committee who was Commissioner Allan Bryson. Now it's Brian McClellan.

Greenwood said the town's completed and proper paperwork never arrived.

"The Town Administrator sent us a document with everything in a lump sum. That wasn't in the terms of the agreement," said Greenwood. "Furthermore, the Rec Park Committee never met to sign-off on the document."

The Highlands Town Board has long contended its paperwork was in order.

But finally all is in order. At the May 14 Macon County Commission meeting, the board agreed to send the town \$425,000, with an explanation.

During 2006-2007 budget year, the county allocated \$100,000 for the Pine Street Park and bought property to expand parking at Zachary Field for \$150,000. The amount of \$425,000 is what's left of the \$675,000 in funds earmarked for Highlands in the the county's 2006-2007 budget.

MC Commissioner Brian McClellan, who spoke on Highlands' behalf Monday night, said the \$500,000 was never released for 06-07 and Highlands' operating budget was "well over \$500,000." He also said the Rec Park Committee never agreed that the \$150,000 for the additional property at Zachary Field should be taken from the town's allocation. County Commissioners said Commissioner Bryson OK'd the release. But Bryson said \$75,000 was to be allocated over a two-year period not all from 2006-07.

"I am asking that the money set aside for Highlands be released. The town carried the entire Rec Park budget last year and it wants the money," said McClellan. "Don't you think you are obligated to pay that?"

Commissioner Chairman Charlie Leatherman said the county never received the proper documentation and that's the only reason the town didn't get its money for 2006-2007. "We just finally got what we asked for and it is 2007-2008," he said.

Leatherman asked Greenwood if the conditions of the contract had been met.

"Yes, we now have it, so all we need is board approval to release the funds," he said.

Commissioner Ronnie Beale said if the county owes the bill it is obligated to pay the money. "But there are obviously problems with communication with the Town of Highlands," he said.

Since the county and the town "read" the contract differently, Chairman Leatherman said no further funds for recreation would be released for Highlands' recreation budget until the contract is "crystal clear."

Commissioner Jim Davis suggested the confusion might be in the way the contract was drawn up by the previous attorney.

Commissioner Leatherman asked



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NEST

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At the annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Main Street, Thanh was already suffering the debilitating headaches that plagued his illness. He is here with his wife Phuong Nguyen and his children Khang and Di.

A beautiful dying

By **B. Mix**
Contributor

Phuong Nguyen has a beautiful strength that goes unnoticed because she is a quiet soul. But underneath her soft silence is a calm grace that is unusual for her tender years. Now 25 with two children, one 2-year-old boy, (Khang), a 14-month-old daughter, (Di), and seven months into her third pregnancy, Phuong stands toe to toe with the death of her husband. Her family and friends returned a second time in two weeks to Missions Hospital in Asheville, NC, from as far away as California and Michigan, while she simply watched and listened, occasionally stroking her child-belly. Having visited and cried over Thanh's fungal-crippled body, the family and friends gathered in a conference room with Phuong until the chatter settled and all eyes turned to her; the wife of their nephew-grandson-cousin-son-friend, for the decision only a wife could make with a voice only true love could know.

As Phuong began to softly speak, in those few minutes of tear-filled tender whispers, a completely different picture came to light of the past few months that led to that moment with family and friends. In January 2007, Thanh Le, (Phuong's husband), expressed his concern to his wife that he would not outlive this feeling he was caught in. He told his wife he loved her and the kids, but if he were single he'd want to die from the pain in his head. Thanh told his wife he felt that God would take him, although unfairly, and that he

would not be long for this world. At some point Thanh asked his wife, Phuong, what she would like from him. She said she wanted a van.

Phuong continued sharing her experience, with those gathered, of the past few months. How she knew something was very wrong. As a wife, she attended the many doctor visits and watched unaware that a fungus inside her husband was growing more powerful every day. She told her family and friends, in that quiet hospital conference room, how she felt trapped in a fog; taking care of two children and tired from the daily task of motherhood and pregnancy. She was overwhelmed, to the point of not being able to focus or gather enough energy to insist her husband get more medical attention. She knew she should have done more, but somehow she felt smothered in the struggle of it all. And she just took the doctors' answers for granted.

In February, Phuong spoke of how her husband began to sing hymns at night and pray to God to take care of his family. That same month, though feeling very ill, Thanh rushed out and traded in their red truck for a family van. Thanh seemed destined to fail in his attempts to find a reason for his headaches, cough, and fever. Hospital staff chided him for coming to them complaining of headaches. Recorded theories of possible Tuberculosis or Histoplasmosis (a fungal infection) went untested and his downward spiral of health, though odd, attracted little attention from all around. Finally on

•See BEAUTIFUL page 17

Plant sale will feature dahlias

By **Becky Schilling**

Would you like to fill your home this summer with beautiful cut flowers? Come to the Mountain Garden Club plant sale on May 26 for dahlia plants, and you can grow your own spectacular cut flowers.

Buddy Dean, owner of Hilltop Gardens in Cashiers, and winner of many dahlia awards both nationally and locally, will be supplying the Mountain Garden Club with 200 dahlias grown in his greenhouse.

Dahlia blooms come in a gorgeous array of sizes, colors, and styles. Some are as big as dinner plates. Others are the size of cotton balls. Some have row upon row of petals. Others have a single row of petals.

Mr. Dean is providing a wide variety for the Mountain Garden Club plant sale. Each dahlia plant will have a photograph of what the blooms will look like when the plant starts flowering.

Come early for the best selection. The Mountain Garden Club plant sale will be held 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., May 26, at the base-



Dahlia bloom at Hilltop Gardens, September 2006.

Photo by Jeannie Chambers

ball park on the corner of Highway 64 East (North 4th Street) and Hickory Street, Highlands, NC

Think dahlias are hard to grow? Think again

"Difficulty with growing dahlias is a myth," said Mr. Dean. "They are weeds that produce a wide range of colors. They are forgiving which makes it easy for almost all to grow."

If you have a garden spot that has well-drained soil and gets 4 to 5 hours of sunshine each day, you can grow almost all

varieties of dahlias.

Knowledgeable dahlia growers will be on hand at the Mountain Garden Club plant sale to answer questions about growing dahlias in the Highlands-Cashiers area.

In addition to dahlias, you'll find hundreds of hostas and other mountain-hardy perennials at the Mountain Garden Club plant sale.

Proceeds from this once-a-year sale support college-level scholarships, local landscaping projects and public gardens.

... HIS & HERS continued from page 7

without benefit of clergy (living in sin as we say hereabouts), and more couples were older when they got married, meaning more mature and able to make better judgments.

I got my latest object lesson in such subjects when the Macon County Circuit Judge pronounced me divorced this Monday. My former wife had left for Pago Pago in American Samoa, to run a restaurant. There's a very long story there, but I will shorten it to this. Of course, truth is stranger than fiction. Fiction has to be believable. Truth only has to happen. That's the basis of Dave Barry's frequent humorous comment, "I'm not making this up."

And as for the future, there's another impossible story there. I will, in due course, marry a lady I was engaged to, 35 years ago. Yep, 35 years. That story was written up in Susan Shapiro's latest book, *Secrets of a Fix-Up Fanatic*. And that happened because her previous book, *Five Men Who Broke My Heart*, caused my once and present fiancée to get in touch with me.

The bottom line is this: I can boil down hundreds of marital mistakes to just two. The first was one which became obvious, being married to a woman who had no use whatever for me. That's probably the largest single cause of divorce in the U.S., and it works both ways. Men turn against their wives in the same, cruel way. I'm not about to venture a guess as to which side is more often at fault.

I can say that the worst mistake in my personal life, and there is a lot of competition for this award, is that I did not marry in 1972, the love of my life whom I will marry in 2007. And the point of this whole column is that sometimes very good things come in very unfortunate ways. Divorce, like a college commencement, is sometimes more of a beginning than an end.

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

Correction:

In last week's May 10 His & Hers column, a portion of the text was left out. In Michelle Mead's piece entitled "Maman" Some of Maman's best advice should have read:

- You don't make chicken salad out of chicken sh**.
- The sh** was left out. We regret the error.

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... MILLAGE continued from page 1

values, Macon County has held the same tax rate of 37 cents per \$100 valuation for the four years following the last revaluation of property, relying on growth in its tax base for a substantial portion of its additional revenue each year. This is how the county funds increases in the cost of operations. However, Greenwood said that course has now set with the new tax rate.

"My prediction is that by January 2008 the county will be facing increased mandates, decreased sources of revenue and a much more complex relationship with a state government intent on cutting its commitment and costs," he wrote in his budget message."

Over the last 10 years Macon County has financed a bevy of capital building programs through its general fund, direct cash projects, matches to grants and debt service payment.

With the dawn of the fall of 2006, many more needs have been identified including the South Macon School recreation complex, two new schools with renovations to another, a recreation building in Nantahala, additional land at the Buck Creek fields in Highlands, a new library building for Highlands, indoor recreation facility on Siler Road, an addition to the SCC Siler Road campus, an addition to the main library, the county jail and law enforcement center, a new social services building, a new recreation facility north of Franklin, an economic development project north of Franklin, an ambulance center on the by-pass, animal shelter and additions to the county's emergency transmitting dispatch system.

"After the prioritizing of these projects in July, a comprehensive general obligation bond issue will be presented the fall of 2007," said Greenwood. "A bond issue is needed simply because Macon County can no longer finance its major capital program out of the general fund as it has in the past."

The proposed \$70 million bond referendum would authorize a specific tax increase to fund the projects with a payoff period of 20-25 years. If the bond passes, the county has up to seven years to issue the bonds.

"If the bond referendum doesn't happen, the county will have to raise taxes on projects because the county finances can't support any more major capital projects out of the general fund reserve," said Greenwood.

Citizens against tax increases and the bond referendum claim the county could use its fund balance to finance projects. Ten years ago, commissioners agreed to maintain an unobligated reserve in the fund balance equal to 25 percent of the general fund appropriation. The NC Institute of Government requires an eight percent unobligated reserve.

"Having this size reserve has allowed the county to qualify for the best interest

rates for financing, get the best recommendation and approvals from the Local Government Commission and will be a major factor in qualifying for the best bond rating for the referendum," said Greenwood.

In closing Greenwood, who retires in December 2007, offer this advice:

"Keep the county's options open by maintaining strong financial reserves and always explore alternative funding methods and keep in mind the effects of immediate action on budget years down the line;

"Make growth pay for itself whether by direct effects such as land transfer taxes or through impact fees and access charges. The net effect is that the citizens already here, especially seniors and young adults trying to start a life, are not paying their own way plus the way of those moving to our county;

"Work to maintain either a stronger relationship with the state and federal government or maintain as far a financial separation as possible."

At Monday's meeting, commissioners agreed to drawn up a resolution requesting a land transfer tax for Macon County from the state. One percent of the sales price would go to the county to help shoulder costs of infrastructure due to growth - particularly in the second home market - the core strength of Macon County's economy.

"The tax would only be on sales, not transfers," said Commissioner Jim Davis. "It's a way of charging people for the rise in infrastructure needs. They are creating the burden so I believe that is the way it should be handled."

Commissioner Ronnie Beale said six counties on the shore have utilized a one percent land sales tax for sometime now.

"They have the highest percentage of per capita spent on students in the schools, consistent tax cuts, continued growth with no downturn at all," he said. "It's a way to contribute to the future in a fair and equal way."

He said at current rates, a one percent land sales tax would mean \$12 million to the county's coffers in four years. "This money would be earmarked for Macon County and it would help with schools and everything else," said Beale.

As it stands now, the Macon County School budget is 39.75 percent of the total levy leaving 60.25 percent for all other county funding.

The county's levy amount for 2007 was \$19,450,000; the schools' portion of that was \$7,733,170.

There was some confusion as to who pays the transfer tax. Proposed bills say the seller pays it. "It's just how you look at it," said Commissioner Davis. "The price of the tax is figured into the price of the home so the buyer is actually paying for the tax."

The board asked County Attorney Lesley Moxley to prepare a resolution in favor of the Land Transfer Tax.

... BOARDS continued from page 1

one who lives in the ETJ and represents those people for ETJ. It's fair for citizens to be represented by people who live in the area they do."

The three openings on the Planning Board were filled by current members Griffin Bell and Pat Taylor. Back on the board after an absence of several years is Linda Clark. She replaces Clem Patton whose term expired.

The composition of the Zoning Board will change, too. The three openings have been filled by Bill Rethorst, who was reappointed, but both John Dotson's and James Tate's terms have expired and they can't be re-appointed at this time. Alternate member Alan Frederick and Allan James have been appointed as regular members and Dave Rohrer is the new alternate member to the Zoning Board.

Three openings on the Appearance Commission were filled by current members Thomas Craig, Pat Taylor and Marc Pittman.

Larry Rogers was named to fill the one opening on the ABC Board; Susie Schiffler was named to the one opening on the Scholarship Committee and the five openings on the Advisory Committee for the Scholarship Endowment Fund were filled by Christy Kelly, Sandy Coppage, Wanda Drake, Terry Bradley and Richard Joel.

Real Estate Transactions

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Divide the revenue stamp amount by two, and multiply by 1000 to get the sale price.

• 0529020, COLLINS, JOSEPH M, 217 IOTLA ST, FRANKLIN, NC, 28734, LOT 4 RESUB PARCEL A MTN MOORING, 05-02-07, 0.9200, \$210.00, \$198,720., \$0., ALLIS, JOHN

• 0504081, MAJOR, JOSEPH E 8 BROOKSIDE WAY GREENVILLE, SC 29605, OFF 1617 PONDEROSA RD, 05-03-07, 0.9500, \$0.00, \$106,130., \$0., MAJOR, SARAH H

• 0504082, MAJOR, JOSEPH E, 8 BROOKSIDE WAY, GREENVILLE, SC 29605, LOTS 20 & 21 PONDEROSA, 05-03-07, 1.5000, \$0.00, \$189,530., \$417,780., MAJOR, SARAH

• 0504083, MAJOR, JOSEPH E 8 BROOKSIDE WAY, GREENVILLE, SC 29605, LOT 22 PONDEROSA, 05-03-07, 0.3400, \$0.00, \$84,110., \$34,700., MAJOR, SARAH H

• 0523052, YAPOR, IRMAG, PO BOX 686, WINDERMERE, FL, 34786, LOT 10 BLUE VALLEY, 05-04-07, 2.0400, \$136.00, \$78,030., \$0., BOBO, CHARLES M & GAUGER, JUDY L

• 0501612, LAKELAND LAND COM-
• See RE TRANSACTIONS page 27

STATE & FEDERAL POLITICS

The house budget

By Senator John Snow

Ninety days since the November elections and the initial uncertainty of process is gone only to be replaced with the much more familiar, yet equally gut wrenching, question mark that is the State budget process. At the end of last week, the House approved its version of the budget. Much of what I wrote about last week is still applicable, although there are some changes. However, we have more information now on more substantive portions of the budget especially those dealing with Medicaid funding and our mental health system.

Budget Financing

I find it useful when discussing the budget to talk about the financing side and then the appropriations side of the budget. I'll start with the financing side first.

The \$20.3 billion budget passed by the House last night relies on keeping two temporary taxes which were approved during the 2001 session of the General Assembly. These two temporary taxes, which generate about \$300 million are set to expire this year. From nearly day one of our preliminary budget talks in the Senate we have thought about developing a budget which allows these taxes to expire. In talking with other members this week I believe that we remained resolved to allow these taxes to expire. This is a very fundamental disagreement between the two chambers and will not help speed up the budget process.

Budget Appropriations

House budget writers found another \$10 million for mental health programs since my last letter, boosting new spending to roughly \$30 million. But that was still far less than the \$190 million which is the estimated need to fix our mental health system. Their expenditures in this area will leave our mental health workers without the tools they need to fight mental health problems with the vigor that they need.

Teachers, community college faculty and administrators, and state judges would receive a 5 percent pay increase. You'll remember last week that I said state employees would receive a 2.5 percent raise and a \$400 bonus. However, the final House budget puts state employee raises at 4.25 percent.

House members added \$40 million to boost a one-time Medicaid relief fund to \$100 million. County commissioners had criticized the \$60 million House leaders previously offered as too little to help with Medicaid costs that eat up more than 25 percent of property tax revenues in some counties. The House proposal would give all 100 counties a piece of half of the \$100 million fund, while those counties with 20 to 25 percent of residents on Medicaid would share an extra \$10 million. Counties with more than 25 percent of their residents on Medicaid would share another \$40 million.

• STATE & FEDERAL POLITICS •

New bills begin reauthorizing of federal programs and agencies

By U.S. Congressman Heath Shuler

Last week the House of Representatives began the process of reauthorizing important federal programs and agencies. These authorizations provide the baseline budgets for federal agencies and provide them the authority to operate. Additionally, these reauthorizations allow Congress the opportunity to make necessary changes within federal agencies. The two reauthorizations passed by the House last week were for the Department of Homeland Security and for Intelligence-Related Activities.

The reauthorization for the Department of Homeland Security, H.R. 1684, includes many significant provisions aimed at strengthening and streamlining management, organizational, personnel, and procurement issues at the Department to ensure that it is fulfilling its mission of protecting America. In particular, the reauthorization gives the Inspector General more power to investigate disaster response and border security programs, and it strengthens the integrity in the agency's contracting practices and promotes small business opportunities.

• H.R. 1684, also authorizes Congress to appropriate \$39.8 billion for the activities of the Department of Homeland Security for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008, — \$2.1 billion over the requested amount of the President's FY 2008 budget. This additional funding will be used to reinstates critical funding for the first responder programs like the State Homeland Security Grant program and FIRE Act grants.

• H.R. 1684 passed the House with bipartisan support, 296-126, and now is awaiting action in the Senate.

The Intelligence Reauthorization, H.R. 2082, also passed the House and awaits action in the Senate.

• H.R. 2082 authorizes the largest amount for intelligence ever considered in a single bill. This investment in intelligence activities will add needed funding so the intelligence community can make strategic investments in critical areas, including the CIA and military's Human Intelligence training programs, language training programs for intelligence collectors and analysts, and counterintelligence field operations.

H.R. 2082 also promotes responsible budgeting and improves efficiency and effectiveness of intelligence programs by streamlining acquisition, trimming the fat from ineffective programs, eliminating redundant activities, requiring greater strategic focus in some key areas.

In addition to these important Reauthorizations, the House of Representatives

also took up important legislation for American small businesses.

The Small Business Fairness in Contracting Act, H.R. 1873, changes the overall procurement system federal agencies use to reduce contract bundling, create a fair appeals process, and increase the participation of American small businesses. In order to increase the participation of small businesses in the federal contracting process, the bill sets a goal of 25% of all federal contracts in a fiscal year going to American small businesses.

An amendment I introduced with Representative Steve Chabot (R-OH) to H.R. 1873 extends small business contracting goals to the federal government's overseas contracts. Reports estimate that by extending contracting goals to the government's overseas contracts American small businesses could gain contracts worth nearly \$15 billion.

When federal agencies spend taxpayer dollars, they should look to American small businesses first. At a time when we see more and more jobs being sent overseas, this amendment strengthens our policy of using small businesses to build a strong industrial base, and it provides accountability to make it more likely that federal dollars are spent here at home.

The "Buy American" Amendment I offered passed the House with overwhelming support, 398-29. The Small Business Fairness in Contracting Act also passed the House with bipartisan support, 409-13, and now awaits action in the Senate.

... REC PARK from pg 13

County Attorney Lesley Moxley to review the situation and report back to the board.

The commission also questioned the town's claim that its operation expenses exceeded \$500,000. "It's not that much in Franklin," said Commissioner Bob Simpson. The board has now requested budget information from the Franklin Recreation Committee so it can compare those figures to Highlands' figures.

At Monday's meeting, the board also agreed to move forward with the Recreation Master Plan and create a single county-wide recreation commission headed by a professional recreation administrator who would manage all county funded programs in the three geographic subdivisions of the county — Nantahala, Franklin and Highlands.

Commissioner Bob Simpson is the liaison to the recreation study committee and was charged with consolidating the bylaws of the three recreation committees into one comprehensive document for all three areas.

... BEAUTIFUL continued from page 14

March 13, 2007, the depth of Thanh's illness could no longer be ignored, but it was too late. Three days later he would be in an unrecoverable coma.

As Phuong continued to speak, (now two weeks into her husband's comatose state). She told of how on Monday, April 2, 2007, three days prior to the arrival of all present, she had spoken to her unconscious bed-ridden husband. This after the doctors along with two nurses, a chaplain, a social worker and a palliative nurse, gathered together to give her the bad news; Thanh would never return to a normal life and would be completely dependent on life support. She spoke of how she asked her husband to give her a sign by the following Wednesday, if he wanted to continue living. It could be a sign from anyone in the family, a friend, a stranger, but something she could clearly know was his wish to live or she would let him go and disconnect the life support he was currently under. As eyes turned around the room it was clear, no one had any viable answer to her prayer. So Phuong was prepared to do what was necessary.

She spoke to those gathered of how she would cremate her spouse because she wasn't sure how long she would stay in Highlands, now that her husband who had brought her here from California, was no longer to live. So wished to temporarily place his urn in a church where he could sing with the choir until she could gather her thoughts and decide where to put his remains to rest.

Knowing her decision, the family and friends prepared to pay one more visit to Thanh before excusing themselves for the night. However, two beings had to be summoned, Khang and Di, his children. Once the children arrived from the Rathbun House, all gathered in the ICU bedroom to say goodbye to their loved one. Children aren't generally allowed in the Intensive Care Unit, but the nurse knowing the circumstances allowed this one exception. Tearful caresses, gentle snuffles and soft skin touches were everywhere. Then Phuong walked around to her husband's side as family members lowered the railing where she leaned over and sweetly began to speak to her husband. Phuong told her husband that the name of their soon-to-be child would be the one they had chosen, (whether the child be a girl or boy); Phi (Fee). That she needed his strength to be the mother-father of their children. She told him she no longer wanted to see him in pain. That she would be all right and he could stop suffering. She told him she would burn him and put his ashes in the church so he could sing with the choir until she decided where she would bury him and

that it was time for him to let go and be with God.

As Phuong was speaking, I noticed the breathing apparatus next to Thanh's bed. In the upper right hand corner three letters appeared that tell of the output of the device. "S" equals spontaneous breathing, or that the breath is actually that of the person lying there. "A" equals assisted breathing and "C" equals Controlled breathing. Controlled breathing is when the air is being provided by the machine to the recipient. On this night, April 4, 2007, in the lower left hand corner of the device was the number 14. It turns out humans breathe anywhere from 12 to 16 times a minute, so the machine was set to automatically infuse air into Thanh's lungs 14 times per minute.

Having visited Thanh almost daily over the past three weeks, I had asked various nurses and technicians how to interpret the many devices surrounding Thanh. As I listened to Phuong's speaking to her husband in Vietnamese, my eyes began to concentrate on the breathing device. I noticed the "S" or spontaneous breathe had decreased to once or two times a minute. Something I had never seen before. And then as Phuong kissed her husband and stopped speaking the "S" disappeared. I watched for several minutes as the "C" — Controlled breathing — rhythmically, in equal measurements, filled Thanh's body with air, and I cried. The mechanics of this whole illusion were simple props in the unveiling of a beautiful dying.

A few weeks prior to these decisions I heard a voice referring to Thanh in a dream that said "he's not going to make it." I didn't say anything to my wife or family because I knew there was still hope in their hearts for Thanh. Around the same time Thanh's uncle Hai (Henry) had a dream in which Thanh told him he wanted to die, and like me he held it back. One evening Henry and I were talking and for some reason the dreams we had came out. We both sighed and wondered what they could mean. Thanh's aunt "Michelle" Nga had a dream also about Thanh, telling her he was hungry. He always loved her cooking. That same evening Tony, Thanh's stepfather, Tony dreamed he was looking out a window when he noticed on the wooden window sill Thanh's nick name Bo being carved in the wood several times "Bo Bo Bo Bo Bo, I Love You.." Then Tony felt a sensation of heat in his chest and rested his head on the sill. As he rested his head on the wooden sill Tony became aware of Thanh's body in the hospital; in a coma. As Thanh's spirit started to leave Tony's dream body, Tony grabbed

•See BEAUTIFUL page 18

Do we have Imari? Oh, yes!



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 - Ink Cartridges

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10 p.m., & midnight.
The Visitor Information Program
airs at 7 am, 9 am, 4 pm, 6 pm,
9 pm, and 11 pm.

... BEAUTIFUL continued from page 17

Thanh in his dream and told him everybody loved him and he should go back to his body and get well. Then Tony woke up.

A week later I was talking to a woman who swore she saw a shadow drop past her window at the Rathbun House where we were both staying while nursing our loved ones. I shared with her, in Vietnam a vision of a shadow crossing a window is a significant image of the soul or spirit of a loved one letting you know that they were moving on. She expressed her appreciation for my explanation. I had never had a "shadow vision" myself, but that same night I dreamt a dark shadow passing by the windows of the Rathbun House room my wife and I were sharing. I called out to my wife in my dream not to go near the window and woke myself with a moan.

The same night Thanh went into a coma, his aunt Hue in Vietnam, which is 14 hours ahead of our time in the U.S., says she saw Thanh in a picture frame wearing a black suit. Hue had a second dream, days later, in which she saw Thanh hunched over, weak, skinny and shaking. She asked Thanh in her dream what was wrong, and he replied, my mother keeps moving my head. I'm just here to say hello, I have to go back and lay down soon. Indeed Thanh's mother was adjusting Thanh's head after the feeding tube was removed and applying lotion to his face. Both his wife and mother applied lotion to his body while his uncle Huy shaved the mustache that had grown under the bandages that kept his breathing tube in place. I guess Thanh just wasn't comfortable with all the attention he was getting, so he decided to visit his Aunt in Vietnam.

As the saying goes, "Don't judge a book by its cover," so it is with Thanh. To look at Thanh, he appears to be rather wild as his body is covered with a few large tattoos and yes, he smoked; a common tradition in Vietnam. But at closer glance, one sees a deeper meaning to the choices Thanh made. His Aunt River, my wife, tells me the dragons he chose represented the power of God. In the crook of his left hand where the web of flesh rests between the thumb and forefinger he wrote "don't cry" and just above on his wrist, two hearts with the word love written beneath. Thanh had mentioned to his wife he was a son of God and he would soon be joining him. Phuong understood her husband because they were both Catholic. I learned that a while ago when Phuong's uncle died on Easter Sunday she told Thanh how wonderful that was, and Thanh asked her why that day was particularly special. So, Phuong explained the significance of Easter to her husband.

How Christ arose on the third day, a ball of light. How today Catholics celebrate that event on Easter Sunday, with cries of "Christ is Risen!" to announce Jesus' victory over death.

Very early Thursday morning, On April 5, 2007, just before removing the life support, Father Tien (a Vietnamese priest who conducts services in Highlands and Cashiers, N.C.), came to see Thanh. He had to be there early because there were preparations to be made for Easter. Before starting, Father Tien explained to the family that he wanted them to know that the Church didn't want Thanh to die of malnutrition and if they felt Thanh would die within a few days he would perform the last rites. In Father Tien's estimation, Thanh's condition looked very severe indeed. Although no one could guarantee the exact date, it looked like it wouldn't be too long before Thanh would transition to another form. So we gathered around, Buddhists, Catholics, and Metaphysicians and dutifully echoed Father Tien's prayers. Shortly thereafter the life support was removed. That afternoon, Father Boyd, from an Asheville congregation, showed up and again we joined in prayer for Thanh. Father Boyd assured us he and Father Tien had done all that they could for Thanh's soul and now it was up to Thanh and the Lord, Jesus Christ.

During a study on cigarette addiction, Hamer, a geneticist at the National Cancer Institute, found what he called the God gene. The researchers took DNA samples from hundreds of siblings. Hamer realized from this database a possible link between genetics and spirituality. It was a surprising discovery. As a metaphysician, it is interesting to think that somehow our genetic make-up influences our spiritual proclivities. I think the difference between an Atheist and a Theist is the letter A. Both have a relationship to God, even those that claim no such relationship, that is a relationship. In Thanh's case I found personal confirmation and example after example of the existence of a spiritual presence. Thanh certainly carried the God gene, if not many God genes.

The doctors weren't sure how long it would take Thanh to expire, but by the looks of things it wouldn't be long. Thinking about the breathing machine I silently agreed. So, we patiently waited. I'd never witnessed the love of a mother and wife like I did in those coming days. When they were through cleaning up their loved one he looked more handsome than I had ever seen him. A family vigil had to be established in order to have someone with Thanh every hour of every day.

Shifts were established with a randomness met by an unconscious group knowing. Now the fourth day after Thanh had been freed of his mechanical assistance, Thanh's father arrived from Vietnam. It was Easter Sunday. Thanh's labored breathing seemed worse than ever. The anticipation of Thanh's father's arrival was palpable. As his father entered Thanh's room his grandmother and aunt cried uncontrollably. Being that Thanh was a Catholic and in such a sorrowful state, I thought to myself, yes, this is the day Thanh will choose to die. It seemed appropriate that his father should arrive on Easter Sunday to say goodbye and that Thanh would be satisfied. But that was not to be the case.

Boys love their mothers more than mothers sometimes know. And Thanh is no exception. Though they sometimes disobey, they will man the guns in their mothers' defense. Under the extreme pressure of a dying loved one, siblings can say things that are harsh. Unexpected outbursts of anger pop out like hot grease on a griddle, from lips that would remain neutral under different circumstances. It seems a few barbs were unfortunately pointed at Thanh's mother that Easter and she cried. My wife having heard what happened, also cried, and expressed how she wished her family would just stop being so picky. The next morning, River, my wife, woke with a greater understanding of what was holding Thanh back. She immediately picked up the phone and started calling her siblings and her mother. She told them Thanh doesn't want you to talk to his mother that way. He doesn't want you to blame her for his death. You have to go to his bed and tell him you're sorry. Ask him to forgive you and tell him you love his mom, too.

For some inexplicable reason, Thanh's stepfather, Tony and his mother Julie felt suddenly drawn away to Highlands to pay some bills that Monday morning. This was unusual as they had been so steadfast in their vigil over their son. But in their absence they left Thanh with his wife. Meanwhile, Thanh's uncle, aunt and grandmother were preparing to visit Thanh in his room that Monday afternoon, the day after Easter Sunday. When they arrived they began to take turns talking to what appeared to be Thanh's unconscious body. His aunt asked Thanh to forgive her for being mean to his mother and explained that she loved her sister and she loved him. His uncle tried to explain to Thanh that he loved his mother too, but sometimes he just couldn't help but say things to her in a mean way and that he would try to change. Finally, Thanh's grandmother began to speak to Thanh in a way that

• See BEAUTIFUL page 23

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

“Lord of the Dance”

Matt 11:16-19

Part Two

(continued from the May 10th issue)



Rev. Hunter Coleman
First Presbyterian Church

“You call me good. No one is good except the one who sent me,” said Jesus. Jesus trusted that goodness enough not to take himself seriously. To take chances. To look foolish. To kick back and enjoy.

God entrusts us with the goodness of a love that would free us up to enjoy life, to relax enough to do silly things we have always wanted to do, things that are fun. We are free in that love to act and to think in ways the world made allowances for when we were very young and will again when we are very old. Of course, we can't go back to childhood days, and as for the latter years that allow for eccentricities, who knows what tomorrow will bring? Who can say we will be around long enough for that to happen?

Now is what we have. Now is the time of salvation. What about now? Now is a time when mainline churches, are netting losses in membership each year. We need to reverse the trend. We need to make a witness that might bring in and keep people. Not just the usual kinds of witnessing important as those ways are. We need to supplement that witness with a different kind. We have been entrusted with many gifts. None more important than the liberating love of God. What if we were more faithful as trustees of it? What if, in taking God's love to heart, we were less somber, less serious, less practical, less careful ...some of the time? What if, from time to time, we dared to act on God's love by singing and dancing, even laughing? What if, in our walk with God, we occasionally, had some fun and frolic?

The whole matter of faithful and obedient discipleship often seems like such an austere affair, best suited for stuffed shirts. Would not fun and frolic, from time to time make following Jesus more appealing? Would not our joy, our laughter, be a witness that might draw others to our Lord? In her book, *To Kiss Joy*, Lois Cheney, writes, "...in the dark of night, in the quiet of prayer, I saw Jesus and his eyes were red with tears and I felt sick because I had had a laughing day all day. But I looked again at him, at his tear reddened face and I think I saw him squint. And I saw that the tears were tears of joy, tears of laughter. And his eyes danced and twinkled and softly, almost impiously, he chuckled. And that night I took a step toward Jesus. And I loved him as I never had before and would have followed him anywhere.”

So what if you have two left feet. You reveled in the freeing love of Jesus. You let down you hair, you

•See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 12

• 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
Pastors residence: 706-746-5770
Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy
Communion each service

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

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

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Office – 526-2320
Sunday: Holy Communion -- 11 a.m.
(Highlands Community Center on. U.S. 64 next to the
ballfield in Highlands
Monday: Evening Bible Study at 6 p.m.
Tuesday: Womens weekly Bible study at 2 p.m.
Wednesday: Mens Bible study at 8 a.m.
at First Baptist Church
Pot Luck Lunch 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. Womens Bible Study
Wednesdays: 5:15 p.m. Students' Dinner (free for kids in 8th
grade and younger);
5:30 p.m. Supper; 5:45 p.m. - 7:15 pm Small Groups for kids
Pre-K through 8th; 6:15 pm - 7:15 pm Adult Bible Study
6pm-7pm Choir Practice

• Small Groups are offered for all ages throughtout the week,
see our website or call for more info.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Brian Sullivan – 526-2968
Monday, May 7: 4 P.M.-Womens Cursillo Group
Tuesday, May 8: 8 A.M.-Mens Cursillo Group; 9:30 A.M-Staff
Meeting; 4:30 P.M.-EFM Meeting
Wednesday, May 9: 4 P.M.-Vestry Meeting; 5:30 P.M.-Dinner;
6 P.M. - Program; 6:30 P.M.-Choir Practice
Thursday, May 10: 10 A.M.-Holy Eucharist in Chapel; 10:30
A.M.-Daughters of the King
Sunday, May 13: HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY
8 A.M.-Holy Eucharist (Rite I) Chapel; 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 P.M.-NO YOUTH Spend time with
your mom!

• Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.

FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN

Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor • 828-369-7977
Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m. (nursery provided)
Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.
Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by childrens
Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Junior & Senior Youth Group 6:30 p.m.;

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study
Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

(nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741
Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Choir – 6 p.m.

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.; Evening
Worship – 6 p.m.
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.
For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

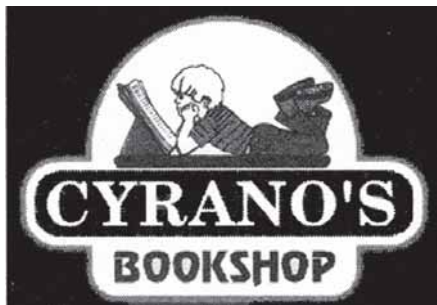
Pastor Rev. Wayne Price
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time) 526-9769
Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



390 Main Street • 526-5488

Upcoming Book Signings

May 18

5-7 p.m.

Marisha Pessl

"Special Topic in Calmth Physics"

Picked as one of the top 10 books in 2006

by

the *New Yorker* magazine

May 19

• 1-3 p.m.

Rob Neufield

"A Popular History of Western North Carolina – Mountains, Heroes & Hootniggers"

May 27

• 2-4:30 p.m.

Danny Berstein

"Hiking the Carolina Mountains"

June 2

• 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Toni Meyers

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

• 2-4 p.m.

James Costa

"The Other Insect Societies" & Brad Sanders

"Guide to Williman Bartram's Travels."

June 9

• 1-3 p.m.

Barbara Brown Taylor

"Leaving Church"

June 16

• 5-7 p.m.

Natalie Dupree

"Shrimp and Grits"

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

• 5-7 p.m.

Jack Bass

"Strom"

June 23

• 12:30-2

Bill Alexander

"Biltmore Nursery: A Botanical Legacy"

• 2:30-4:30

Ann Ross

"Miss Julia Strikes Again"

June 30

• 1-3 p.m.

Don Brown

"Treason"

• 5-7 p.m.

Gayden Metcalfe

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

July 7

• 1-3 p.m.

Charles Martin

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going

• Beginning Memorial Day Weekend, services at the Church in the Wildwood in Horse Cove. Sundays at 7 p.m. through Labor Day. Dress is casual. Old fashioned hymn-sing.

• Registration has begun for this summer's nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Please call 526-2623 or visit the Nature Center webpage at www.wcu.edu/hbs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

First Mondays

• Be more informed and participate in your hospital by joining the Auxiliary of the Highlands/ Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at the hospital.

Every Monday

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

Every Tuesday

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

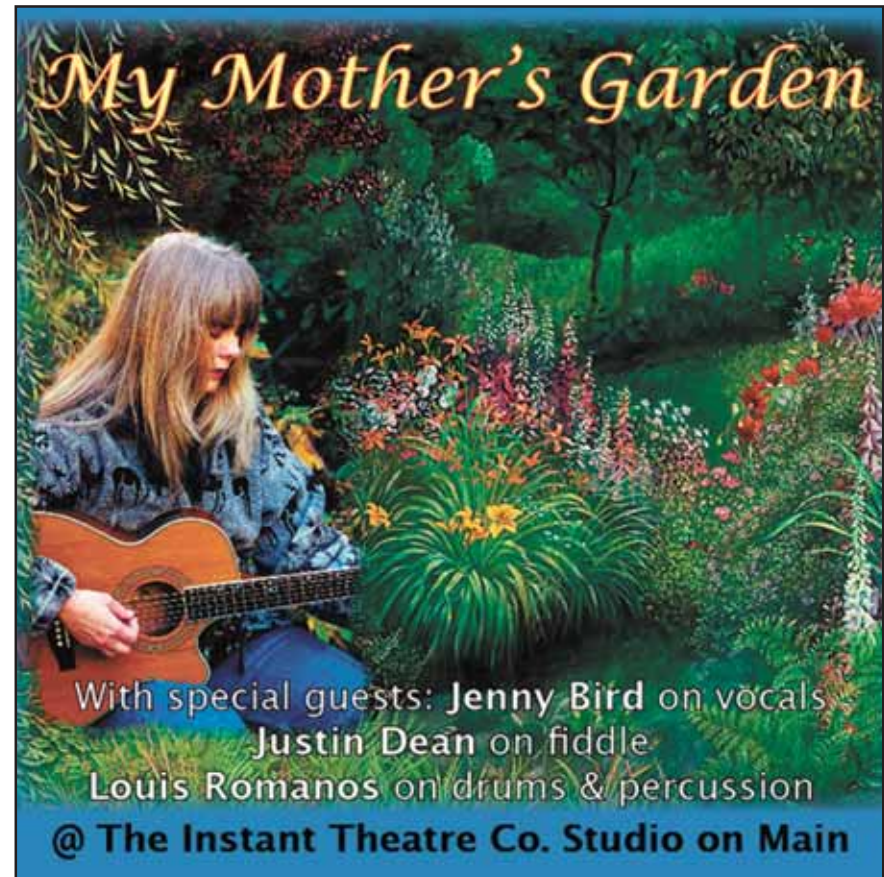
Every Wednesday

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

Every Third Wednesday

• As part of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin's "Life-Span Learning Curriculum," there are "Wednesday Night Chautauquas" which

CD release party at ITC, May 26 at 8 p.m.



Singer-Songwriter, Thea will be celebrating the release of her new CD "My Mother's Garden" in a CD release party and concert on May 26 at 8 p.m. at the Instant Theatre Co. Studio on Main in Highlands, NC. The concert will feature Thea & The GreenMan backed by Jenny Bird on vocals, Justin Dean on fiddle, Louis Romanos on drums and percussion. Thea's vocals are backed by vocal harmony, Celtic guitar, grand piano, cello and violin punctuated with Native American flute and percussion. Ticket price is \$25, includes refreshments and reservations are strongly suggested as seating is limited. Call 828-342-9197 She brings us home with songs of love and loss, empowerment and healing, beauty and peace.

are media enhanced study sessions at the UU Fellowship Hall in Franklin. A \$5 soup-supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9964.

Friday-Sunday May 18-May 20.

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

Thursday, May 17

• "Meet the Artists/Movie Night" from 6-8 p.m. at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library in the Carlton-Oliff Meeting Room. At 7 p.m., see Victor Borge performing Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody #2 with the London Philharmonic. Light refreshments. Comedy and entertainment guaranteed. For information call Kathie Blozan 743-1765.

Friday & Saturday, May 18 & 19

• The Playhouse will be holding auditions for "Kiss Me Kate" at 6 p.m. Friday, and from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday. Needed are several young men in their late teens to early 30s; two older men in the 35 to 50 year range; and two to three young women between 18 and 30. Candidates should arrive with a mono-

logue and be prepared to sing one song without an accompanist (unless they bring their own). For more information call the Playhouse at (828) 526-2695.

Friday, May 18

• Book signing at Cyrano's Book Shop, at 390 Main Street from 5-7 p.m. Marisha Pessl "Special Topic in Calmth Physics." Picked as one of the top 10 books in 2006 by the *New Yorker* magazine.

• Highlands Duplicate Bridge at the Civic Center, 1 p.m. Call Duane or Marge Meeter 787-2174 for more info.

Saturday, May 19

• Live music at Cyprus International Restaurant at 9:30 p.m. Shane Perloin Group – modern intellectual jazz from Asheville. \$10 cover.

• Book signing at Cyrano's Book Shop, at 390 Main Street from 1-3 p.m. Rob Neufield "A Popular History of Western North Carolina -- Mountains, Heroes & Hootniggers"

• Spring Fling Dance with Hurricane Creek at The Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main. For reservations call the box office at 828-342-9197. The doors open at 7:30 p.m. and the band cranks up at 8 p.m. The Studio is located at 310 Oak Square, Main Street.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

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

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

• Georgia ForestWatch is holding a large native plant sale, 2-6 p.m. at Tiger Mountain Vineyards, two miles south of Clayton, Georgia, on Old U.S. 441. This benefit includes several concurrent, bonuses: Appearances by noted authors Peter Loewer and Patricia Kyritsi Howell, as well as food and wine for the tasting. Admission, \$20. The public is invited. Rain or shine – the event is under a big tent. For further information, call 706-635-8733, or contact info@gafw.org.

Sunday, May 20

• Brunch fundraiser-auction set for Le family at Wolfgang's at 2 p.m. Please make reservations by calling Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro at 526-3807.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.5 mile hike with very little elevation change at the Highlands biological station. In Franklin, meet at the Bi-Lo center at 2 p.m. Drive 50 miles round trip. If coming from Highlands or Cashiers, call leader for

alternate meeting place. Reservations are required. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820.

• Old-Time Hymn Sing at 3 p.m. in the historic Chapel of First Presbyterian Church in downtown Franklin. The program features audience singing of beloved hymns such as "Amazing Grace," "I'll Fly Away," "Sweet Hour of Prayer," "The Old Rugged Cross," and many others. Admission is free; a collection will be taken to support community arts programs. The First Presbyterian Chapel is on the corner of Church Street and Harrison Avenue. For information contact the Arts Council, 524-7683.

Monday, May 21

• Art League of Highlands monthly meeting. Refreshments at 5; program at 5:30 Civic Center Rec Park, Highlands NC Randy Laws will give a presentation on a simple way to develop the use of both sides of the brain (at the same time!) for artistic purposes. Randy has over 60 years experience as an artist, having started drawing from nature at the age of 3 1/2. This program will be of interest to artists of all levels of expertise. For info call Bill Richardson (828-524-6070).

Tuesday-Thursday, May 22-24

• Additional volunteers are needed now to proctor end-of-grade and end-of-course testing at Macon County Schools. To volunteer, please contact the school of your choice or Jennifer Jones at 524-4414 x 324 or jennifer.jones@mcsk-12.org.

Tuesday, May 22

• Franklin Women's Connection. "Travels with Crown" luncheon and program at the Community Building in Franklin from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$10 inclusive for luncheon and program. Call Susan at

369-7697 or Georgann at 369-9117 for reservations by noon Thursday, May 17.

• Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours at Oak Street Cafe. 6 p.m. \$20 per person.

Wednesday, May 23

• Highlands Duplicate Bridge at the Civic Center, 1 p.m. Call Duane or Marge Meeter 787-2174 for more info.

Thursday, May 24

• The Highlands Rotary Club will sponsor an evening of Bingo at the Highlands Community Center. Number calling begins at 6:30 and will last until about 8:30. Proceeds from Bingo will go to Rotary's Community Fund, which benefits the Highlands Community. Prizes are half of the individual game receipts and Bingo cards are on a pay per game per card basis. Refreshments will be offered by Highlands Boy Scout Troop #207 in this family and fun event.

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

• The Plateau Fly Fishing Club will kick off its sixth season at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Library in Cashiers. Chad Foster of ESPN2's Fly Fishing America will share film highlights of 7 seasons filming from the marshes of Louisiana to the Spring Creeks of Montana and top fly fishing locations around the U.S. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. and concludes with a raffle for the surprise grand prize. Everyone is welcome. Call 828-743-2078 for information.

Friday & Saturday, May 25 & May 26

• Highlands Playhouse Garage Sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. The sale is open to everyone. In addition, the playhouse will be accepting tax-deduct-

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Hwy. 441, Franklin

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Playing May 18-24

Note: Expanded Operating Hours

SHREK 3 rated PG

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

SPIDER-MAN 3 rated PG-13

Mon - Fri: (4:30), 7, 9:30
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:30), 7, 9:30

GEORGIA RULE rated R

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

THE INVISIBLE rated PG-13

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

ible donations. To schedule a donation pickup, call Dianne Ray at 743-5625. To view the goods, plan to attend the Preview Party, slated for 7 to 9 p.m. Friday. The \$15 donation covers admission, wine and hors d'oeuvres, and the first right to purchase. For more information call (828) 526-2695.

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• MOUNTAIN TOP RELAY FOR LIFE – AUG. 24 •

Kick-off and activities begin for this year's MountainTop Relay for Life

Just the talk of cancer is making a difference. It seems that public figures who share their fight are comforting patients across the country. Cancer has been the hot topic in recent days: From TV to the Internet, the news about Elizabeth Edwards and White House Press Secretary has resonated.

For Dr. Randy Hecht, an oncologist at the University of California, Los

Angeles Jonsson Cancer Center, public attention has been very positive for patients. "I think it has helped by bringing the spotlight onto their diseases. They've improved the public discourse, and I think they've probably saved lives."

Those in the spotlight have long been influential: First lady Betty Ford, newsman Peter Jennings, cyclist Lance

Armstrong and singer Sheryl Crow.

And Highlands North Carolina is no different in that it has its very own celebrity cancer survivor in Highlands School's Famed Basketball Coach, Butch Smart. Coach Smart knows all about winning the fight as this past season, he became North Carolina's active all-time leader for most wins basketball coach, celebrating over 650

wins!

He credits focusing on prayer and faith that helped lead him to Highlands in 1996 and helped him build the successful basketball program at Highlands School. This same faith also helped him face cancer, even when told he had three to six months to live. His faith, he said, gave him the strength to live any way.

"I was left here to be an inspiration to others," he said.

He recovered fully and picked up right where he left off, and he sees no end in sight.

In fact, one of Coach Smart's latest assignments is to serve as Honorary Chair for The Mountain Top Relay For Life Kick-Off event on Sunday, June 3 from 2:30-5:30 pm at Drake's Diamond Gallery at 152 S. Second Street in Highlands. The Relay Kick-Off launches a new theme this year, "IMAGINE...There Is No CANCER" and the event will be hosted by Drake's Diamond Gallery of Highlands and will introduce Coach Smart along with the 2007 Relay Event Committee. The primary purpose of the kickoff rally is to encourage the community to volunteer and donate to the 2007 Mountain Top Relay.

"We welcome church groups, civic organizations, businesses, families and individuals to join in the fight against cancer," says event co-chairman Buck Trott.

The Mountain Top Relay For Life of Cashiers, Glenville, Highlands, Sapphire and Scaly Mountain are all gearing up to hold its 7th annual Relay For Life event on Friday, August 24. "The Mountain Top Relay has been the #1 Relay based on population per capita in the country for six years in a row," says Trott. "Over the last six years we've raised \$1.2 million."

This year's Relay will be hosted at Highlands Rec Park, starting on the evening of the 24th, continuing through the night and drawing to a close at 7 a.m. Saturday, August 25. Individuals and groups are invited to walk through the night. To keep everyone's spirits up, there will be food and music and a lively, festive atmosphere.

And so, just *the talk* of cancer is making a difference – encouraging survivors and opening a dialogue on how best, even with cancer, to live.

To find out more about the Mountain Top Relay go to:

www.acevents.org/mountaintoprfl or call 1-866-227-7798 and for Kick-Off information call 526-5858 at Drake's Diamond Gallery.

Dealing with the beast within Part 1

I am not a doctor. I don't even play one on television, but since being diagnosed with cancer I have seen plenty of doctors. Therefore, I feel fairly knowledgeable about what it is like to experience the "dreaded" disease.

I had turned 60 not long before I found myself sitting in a rather uncomfortable chair in a urologist's examining room. Before and after my rather grandiose birthday party, I had been having a number of tests and had arrived at this destination to find out what I needed to do to get well.

He came in, sat down on a stool, which, I thought, looked much more uncomfortable than the chair I was perched on. He looked Eastern European, I thought. How important is that?

The doc looked over his glasses, my medical chart dangling from his left hand.

"Well he said, I'm afraid we (at this point my brain dropped a curtain) blah, blah, blah, carcinoma, chemotherapy, possible surgery, but we want to avoid that because it is a nasty piece of business."

I doubt there is anyone my age who hasn't wondered how we would react to such news. I was surprised at my response.

"Did you think if you used a big word, I wouldn't understand what you were saying to me?" I asked. "You just said I have cancer. I know what carcinoma means."

"Yes," he answered. "Now we have to get to work."

I had no idea how much that moment would define and change my life. Nor did I realize in how many ways I would be affected, both physically and mentally.

"Let's get to work," I said. "What's next?"

He was honest and kind. As kind as



Nancy Welch

he could be under the circumstances.

I left his office that day without being poked with a needle. It occurred to me later that it was the last time I left a doctor's office without being 'needled' for a very long time.

On the way back home, I waited for the tears to come. Surely, I thought, no one receives this news without crying. After all, I could die. But, I decided, I would not. Not yet. Wouldn't cry, wouldn't die.

And so my journey began. And it continues, even over a year later.

I'm sure few find dealing with "carcinoma" easy or funny. Looking back, I think I chose to find the funny and use every bit of determination I could muster to fight the beast within me. I had no illusions, but I certainly had plenty of misconceptions. I will share them all with you as we count the time to our community's Relay for Life.

Someday I hope to walk as a survivor. Someday I hope there is a cure. But, in the meantime, I continue to take one step at a time. For now, that is my Relay for Life.

I thank God for my wonderful doctors who work constantly to heal me. I thank God for the many medical professionals who anticipate my needs and, without doling out maudlin sympathy,

forge ahead, trying to make me as comfortable as possible while carrying out the treatments my doctors prescribe.

My journey so far has not been too bad. Oh, there have been moments; but for, the most part, I have managed.

I invite you to accompany me as this journey continues. I pray no one who reads this will face dealing with the dreaded disease. Sadly, statistics tell us, not many of us will make it to middle age without dealing with cancer — either in our own bodies or in the bodies of those we love.

By the time you read this, I will be well into my second round of chemotherapy. I will tell you about my surprise at what chemo entailed and the strange and sometimes funny consequences of what having poison pumped into your veins can do to you. (A hint: not as bad as I thought).

As someone who is fighting cancer (I will not be called a victim); I must say that each time I read of a walk, a run or any kind of recognition of the disease and efforts to raise funds for research, I am heartened. I encourage anyone who is able to join in The Relay for Life.

Those of us in the battle are fortified by your determination to help in any way you can. Walk, run, knock on doors, make phone calls. Much has been done to find a cure for the many "carcinomas" that exist. Much more is needed.

Step forth and help. Put on your walking shoes and boogie with me (my apologies to the composer of that song.)

As my urologist said, "There is work to be done."

I'll work. I hope you will, too.

... BEAUTIFUL continued from page 18

only a grandmother can. She reassured Thanh that they would all do their best to help take care of his children and wife, while gently patting his hand. Then, to their amazement, Thanh started to cry. Thanh's wife and family gathered around him and wiped the unexpected volumes of tears from Thanh's face as his breath slowed, his lungs relaxed and he let go. It was 2:10 in the afternoon, Monday, April 9, 2007.

Almost as soon as Thanh died, calls went out to family members and they all started to gather around Thanh. One call to his father-in-law in Cashiers, N.C. was notable, in that, as the news was delivered, Thanh's daughter Di, who was in a deep sleep, now barely over a year old, began to cry loudly in the background. When I arrived I

noticed that Thanh's lucky earrings were gone and asked what happened to them. My wife explained that Thanh had told his wife to take them when he died and give them to his daughter Di. Perhaps she was removing his lucky earrings the very moment Di began to cry.

One may never prove Thanh was somehow connected to his relatives and family through their dreams and thoughts, but the timing and frequency seem to point to no other conclusion. Although I don't know many Vietnamese, my family by marriage has taught me how connected the Vietnamese feel to spiritual realms. Perhaps this understanding of spirit is a result of the years of war and oppression they have suffered. Whatever the reason, God is a living

palpable presence in their daily lives. It is hard to believe, that my family of nine siblings, under the direction of their mother, during all of the Vietnam crisis, never lost a member, which is why the loss of Thanh at the young age of 24 has been such a crushing blow.

When my son Matt, of a previous marriage, was three, we were sitting on the front porch and he pointed up in the air and exclaimed, "Kiss Butterfly." Now I'm beginning to understand. A butterfly, in an unexpected place, could be a loved one watching over me. The butterfly that appeared at the home altar of Thanh's aunt must have been Thanh. How else would a butterfly have come to rest in such a place? Yes, Thanh was on the wings of that butterfly, a subtle whisper, reminding her that he was there, somewhere, just in a different form.

Early the same evening after Thanh had died, I was driving home from Missions Hospital in Asheville to Sapphire with my wife River. During our ride home, she shared another story

about Thanh. It seems when Thanh first arrived here in the United States, he called his grandmother in Vietnam and told her, "Grandma, I call you from heaven." Seven years later Thanh unknowingly inhaled spores that were in the dust around him, while visiting his family in California. On that trip Thanh told his Aunt's boyfriend Thien, that he would live forever in North Carolina. Little did he know heaven would take him to a place in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina where he would defend his love for his mother with his last dying breath before moving on to his beloved heavenly father.

The veil of this telling is not exact and I'm sure many details have been left out, but if you read between the lines you will understand as I, that Thanh Cong Le was a very special young man. Rest in peace my friend and nephew, I still hear your voice and I'm so honored when I hear you call me, Uncle Buddy.

Brunch fundraiser-auction set for Le family at Wolfgang's Sunday, May 20

Highlands seems to be the town of fundraisers and it is often difficult to ask for money for yet another cause. This time however, it is easy.

Anyone who has been to #1 Nails in Wright Square is familiar with Julie and Tony and what hard-working business owners they are. You also know how important family is to them and that Julie's son, Thanh Le, died on April 9. Thanh left behind two very small children and his wife who is expecting their third child.

A fundraiser is being held at Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro on Sunday, May 20 from noon to 2 p.m. There will be a fabulous buffet lunch as well as an auction of items and services donated by local busi-

nesses. All proceeds will go to the Le family.

Some of the business which have given items for auction include Lucas Patton Design; The Galleries: Summit One Gallery and Drake's Diamond Gallery; Highlands Appraisal Company; Highlands Whole Beef Tenderloins; Fressers Eatery; The Instant Theatre Company; and Mountainique.

If you wish to donate your time or your item for auction for this Fundraiser please contact Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro at 526-3807 or by email at HighlandsHelps@gmail.com

Please make reservations by calling Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro at 526-3807. The event is to be held Sunday, May 20 from noon to 2 p.m.

Hospital blood drive is May 29 & 30

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and AnMed Regional Blood Center will conduct their annual spring blood drive in Highlands on the last Tuesday and Wednesday of May.

The AnMed bloodmobile will be at First Citizens Bank on US 64 East on Tuesday, May 29, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., and at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital on Wednesday, May 30, from 9 until 11 a.m. The bloodmobile will also be at the Albert Carlton Library on Grouse Point Road in Cashiers from 1-5:30 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon.

Area blood donations continue to lag behind what has been needed by patients at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital each year, and the approaching summer months are generally a time when donations fall off. Hospital officials are urging potential donors to turn out for this month's drive and help potentially save the lives of friends and neighbors.

No reservations are necessary. Even if you have donated blood earlier this year,


you can still donate again as long as it has been at least eight weeks.

AnMed Blood Center in Anderson, S.C. is the only blood center utilized by the hospital.

Potential donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in good health. Even those who take medication for high blood pressure can usually donate blood. Most medications won't disqualify potential donors.

Two book signings at Cyrano's on Main Street

Two book signing at Cyrano's Book Shop this week – Friday, May 18 at from 5-7 p.m. Marisha Pessl "Special Topic in Calmth Physics." Picked as one of the top 10 books in 2006 by the New Yorker magazine. Saturday, from 1-3 p.m. it's Rob Neufeld "A Popular History of Western North Carolina – Mountains, Heroes & Hootnogs."



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CENTRALIZED SCHEDULING COORDINATOR AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER. Full-time, Monday through Friday position. Duties include answering phones, maintaining logs, scheduling appointments, register patients, order tests, provide information, etc. Must have good communication and clerical skills. Knowledge of medical terminology preferred. Full benefits after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

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

FOOD SERVICE PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER. Full-time position. Experience in institutional/food service environment with knowledge of therapeutic diets, food safety and sanitation guidelines preferred. Good communication, organizational, and leadership skills a must. Full benefits after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

DONOR DATABASE SPECIALIST WITH HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL FOUNDATION. Full-time, Monday through Friday position. Responsibilities include all aspects of gift processing and acknowledgement, financial reporting, maintaining the donor database, etc. Database experience

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HOUSEKEEPER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER. PRN and Full-time position available. Various days, alternate weekends. Responsibilities include cleaning patient and non-patient care areas, linen service, waste removal, sharps container removal and adhering to Infection Control/Sanitation functions and maintenance. Full benefits after 60 days to full-time employees. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

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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.

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RHODO-SEQUESTERED COTTAGE - 2 BA, 2 Baths, 2 miles out on the Cashiers Road in Rolling Acres. Hardwood Floors, W/D, garage, basement. \$900 a month. Call 828-526-3836.

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107 S. For More information please call Josh Barber 828-743-0077.

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

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOTS - exclusive RiverRock, Tuckasegee Village: 2.1 acre Lot 48, great building site, adjoins horse farm. \$364,900; and THE premier view Lot 34, best view lot development. \$799,900 Call HUTCH (706) 831-0892 owner/agent.

LAND FOR SALE - 2.18 acres \$40,000. Firm. Serious inquiries only 828-526-2874 5/10

FOR LEASE OR SALE. Brand new 2,300+-sq ft unit/NC 106. This is #19 Freeman Center. Unit has 1,600+-sq ft on the main level with Red Oak hardwood floors. Loft space is 700+-sq ft. Unit has separate meter, heat pump and 3 ton A/C. Please call Jim Tate (828)371-0773. Owner/broker Chris Gilbert. \$1,750 monthly with option to purchase.

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

FIX 'R' UPPER - 2,500 sq. ft home. 2-3 decks. 2-3 bed/baths. New furnance. Walk to hospital. Interior unfinished...must have imagination. Make offer. Call 828-200-9333.

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.

PETS FOR SALE

PUPPIES - Pomeranian-Chihuahua mix. Adorable and playful. First Shots. \$225 each. Call 828-349-3001. 5/24

YARD SALE

MOVING SALE SATURDAY, MAY 19, 9-3 at 229 Raoul Road. Furniture--tables, chairs, king mattress, bed spreads, sheets, lamps, accessories. From stop light at Franklin Road and Dillard Road intersection, go .6 miles to Rocky Hill Road. Follow signs to 229 Raoul. Call 536-0991.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 19 & 20, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Make me an offer and it's yours! 148 Hammel Road off Webbmont. Furniture, artwork, nick-nacks and more. 526-4325.

MAY 25 AND MAY 26 - Lots of Stuff for Sale. Antiqu3es, samples, and more. Friday 3-7 p.m. and Saturday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. 320 Crow Drive, Rolling Acres -- 2 miles from downtown Highlands off the Cashiers Road. Follow the signs.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 25 & MAY 26 -- The Highlands Playhouse Yard Sale - and looking for donations. There will be a "Preview Sale Party" on Friday night, May 25. A donation of \$15 will entitle anyone to purchase items the night before the sale on Saturday - along with complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvres. The yard sale and preview party will be held at the Highlands Playhouse. Please call 828-743-5625 (Dianne Ray) for more information or to make a donation.

ITEMS FOR SALE

CROSSBOW ULTRA MAX HOME GYM by Weider. Full body workout w/ leg extension \$175 .OBO. call: 828-200-0490 or 787-1515

EDD PRESNELL DULCIMER, CA. 1974. Call 828-349-9222.

ANTIQU HAND-CARVED MAHOGANY TWIN BEDS with pineapple finial cir. 1860s. Will not separate. \$1,000 for both. Call 787-1871.

RANGE, DISHWASHER AND REFRIGERATOR - white, Kenmore. Like new. Call 828-342-6838.

OAK DINING ROOM TABLE - 66-inches by 44 inches with two 15-inch leaves. Six upholstered chairs. \$500. Call 526-3897 before 8 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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 at Carolina Court. 526-5939.

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

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

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

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

VEHICLES FOR SALE

1997 LINCOLN TOWN CAR – white with every option. Call Dan for details. Cell: 342-6640. Home: 526-2888.

1997 FORD F150 4WD SUPERCAB XLT. Silver, 68K miles. All options. Serviced regularly. One Owner. \$8,500. Call 743-5314. 5/17

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

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

ANTIQUÉ 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

HOUSECLEANING COUPLE – Will do an excellent job. Available Days Friday, Saturday & Sunday; Evenings Monday-Thursday. Call 828-506 2459. 5/24

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY – THE REAL ESTATE BOOK – North America's largest and most successful "Homes For Sale" magazine, is offering the chance to be an Independent Distributor of the Cashiers-Highlands area. This market meets the criteria of our 400 successful territories. Comprehensive training, on-going support help ensure success. Candidate should possess strong sales skills, customer support and follow-up. No franchise fees or royalties. Initial start-up and working capital required. Contact Tar Truitt at 770-962-7220, ext. 24608 or email ttruitt@trcb.com for more information.

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

CHAMBERS LAND MANAGEMENT SERVICES – Environmental Restoration, Stewardship Planning, Species Inventory, Tree Health, Aesthetics, Forestry. Call Sam Chambers at 828-421-6448. www.chambers-lms.com 5/10

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.

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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 clean-

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• BUSINESS NEWS •

Emily Compost Invites You



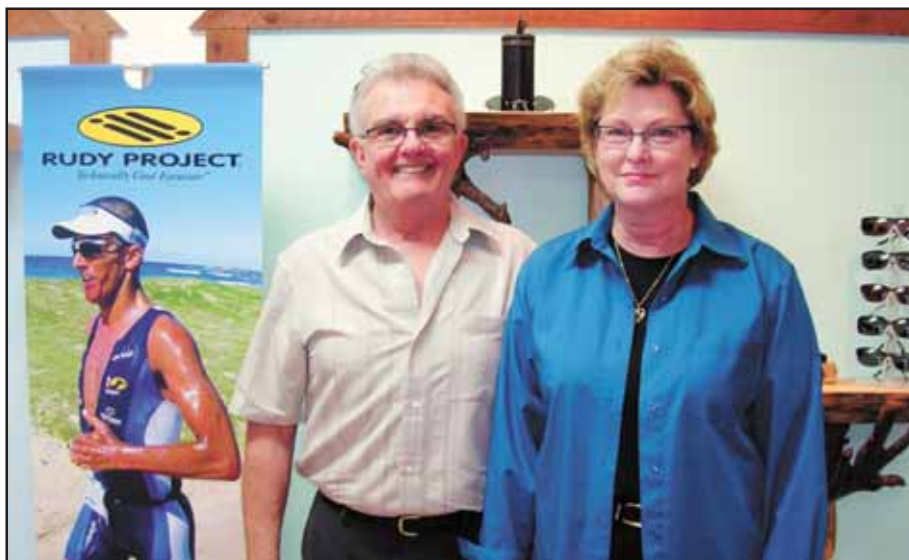
25th Annual
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BASEBALL PARK ON HWY 64 E
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Carolina Eyes opens in Wright Square



Carolina Eyes in Wright Square next to #1 Nails, features the latest in eyewear including sunglasses and designer styles. As owners and resident opticians, the Mirowczynski family can fit your eyes with the perfect eyewear. Also on hand is an optometrist. For more information call 828-787-2020.

Century 21 Mountain Lifestyles
names top producers for April



Elizabeth Matej



Sharon Dalton



Gary Garren



Sherman Pope

Top producers in the Cashiers Office for the month of April were Sharon Dalton, provisional broker who was top listing agent and Elizabeth Matej Broker Associate Fine Homes & Estates Specialist who was named Top Sales Agent. Matej was also awarded the Bronze Producer award for her production in 2006.

Top producers in the Highlands Office were Gary Garren, managing broker and Sherman Pope, broker associate Fine Homes & Estates Specialist and New Construction Specialist. Pope was awarded the Masters Ruby award for his production in 2006.

Summit One Gallery now
on South Second Street
in town



Owner Mary Adair Leslie continues her reputation for showcasing fine art at her new location on S. Second Street and Helen's Barn Avenue.

From May 21-June 21 it's "East of the Sun, West of the Moon" with artists Rosemary Stiefel and Don Penny.

The artists' opening reception is Saturday, May 26 from 5-7 p.m. For more information, call 526-2673 or go online at www.summitonegallery.com

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www.highlandscommunityplayers.org

Four Mexican nationals arrested on drug charges

On May 11, 2007 four suspects were arrested and charged with various drug and firearm related offenses following the conclusion of a narcotics investigation involving several local, state and federal agencies.

The investigation coordinated by the Macon County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Unit and the Franklin Police Department were assisted by officers with North Carolina Probation Office, State Bureau of Investigations (SBI), and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration Asheville Office.

The investigation led to the arrests of four Mexican nationals, the seizure of two vehicles, multiple firearms, large amount of cash and more than 200 pounds of marijuana.

The arrests occurred following a traffic stop by officers involved in the investigation. A Sheriff's Office canine was utilized and indicated on the bed of the truck. Officers seized several large blocks wrapped in heavy plastic each containing large amounts of marijuana.

"These arrests which kept \$300,000 worth of drugs out of our community would not have been possible without the collaborative effort of all the agencies involved and the consistent willingness to work together," said Sheriff Robert Holland.

The investigation continues with additional charges to follow. In the meantime, the suspects remain in the Macon County Detention Center under a \$150,000. secured bond.

- **Santos-Garcia, Nereo, 33**, of Duluth GA: 1 Felony count of Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell and Deliver Marijuana; 1 Felony count of Conspire to Traffic in Marijuana.

- **Islas, Eder Amador, 23**, of Duluth GA: 2 Felony counts of Trafficking in Marijuana; 1 Felony count of Possession of Marijuana

- **Lozano, Edgar Meija, 22**, of Duluth, GA: 1 Felony count of Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell and Deliver Marijuana; 1 Felony count of Conspire to Traffic in Marijuana

- **Santos-Garcia Eusebio, 38**, of Duluth, GA: 1 Felony count of Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell and Deliver Marijuana; 1 Felony count of Conspire to Traffic in Marijuana; 1 Misdemeanor count of carrying a Concealed Weapon.



Nereo Santos-Garcia



Eder Amador Islas



Edgar Meija Lozano



Eusebio Santos-Garcia

... REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS continued from page 16

PANY, 2000 E EDGEWOOD DRIVE, LAKELAND, FL 3803, LOT 4 APPLE MTN, 05-04-07, 1.0600, \$1050.00, \$113,340., \$432,510., BLANK, WILLIAM R & BLANK, SALLY C

- 0538216, PANNABECKER, GERALD K JR, 40 SPOTTED BEAR LANE, HIGHLANDS, NC 28741, LOT 3 THE COTSWOLDS SUBD, 05-04-07, 1.7400, \$0.00, \$533,000., \$499,650., GKP CONSTRUCTIONS

- 0501178, SHOPTAUGH, MARK, 7430 S BOCAGE COURT, BATON ROUGE, LA 70809, LOT 18 COLD SPRINGS, 05-07-07, 0.6500, \$820.00, \$69,620., \$331,990., ADAMS, WILLIAM G

• POLICE & FIRE •

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of May 11-14. Only the names of persons arrested or public officials have been used.

May 11

- At 11:45 p.m., a motorist at N.C. 106 and Buttermilk was cited for speeding 54 mph in a 35 zone..

May 12

- At 10:45 a.m., a motorist at Mirror Lake and Hicks roads was cited for driving without carrying a license..

May 13

- At 8:30 a.m., a motorist at Hicks and Billy Cabin roads was cited for speeding 40 mph in a 25 zone.

- At 8:45 a.m., a motorist on N.C. 196 was cited for failing to enter the traffic flow safely.

- At 10:23 a.m., a motorist on N.4th Street was cited for speeding 40 mph in a 25 zone.

- At 10:35 a.m., a homeowner on Bowery Road reported the breaking and entering of a tool shed and burglary of assorted lawn and garden tools valued at \$810.

May 14

- At 7:45 a.m., a motorist at U.S. 64 and Laurel Street was cited for driving without a license.

- At 8:20 a.m., a motorist at U.S. 64 and Webbmont was cited for speeding 50 mph in a 35 zone.

- At 1:40 p.m., a motorist at Oak and 3rd streets was cited for failing to make a complete stop at the sign.

- At 2:15 p.m., a motorist at Main and 2nd streets was cited for driving without a license.

- At 5:30 p.m., a motorist at Main and 4th streets was cited for failing to drive safely.

- At 5:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-car accident at Main and 4th streets.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the weeks of May 8-15

May 9

- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers Fire Dept. The call was cancelled en route.

May 10

- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers Fire Dept. The call was cancelled en route.

- The dept. responded to the call of a brush fire on Laurel Branch Road. It was a controlled burn and the dept. helped put it out.

May 11

- The dept. responded to a false alarm at Highlands School.
- The dept. responded to a false alarm at a the Cullasaja CC.

May 12

- The dept. responded to a false alarm at a residence on Falcon Ridge.

May 14

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a construction site on Cotswald Way where a worker fell. He was transported to the hospital.

May 15

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

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at the Jane Woodruff Medical Clinic where a patient passed out. He was being wheeled to the emergency room when EMS arrived.

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a business on N. 4th Street where a person was having trouble breathing. He was transported to the hospital.

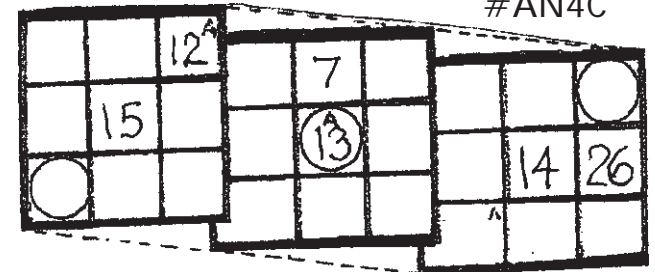
- 0512660, TALLEY, HARVEY N TRUSTEE, PO BOX 291548, PORT ORANGE, FL 32129, RD 106, 05-07-07, 3.9500, \$0.00, \$221,200., \$0., TALLEY, HARVEY N TRUSTEE

- 0600526, STEWART, KAREN M TRUSTEE, 5723 9TH AVENUE DR W, BRADENTON, FL 34209, OFF HWY 106, 05-01-07, 0.5000, \$0.00, \$48,770., \$96,150., STEWART, ROBERT H & STEWART, KAREN

- 0634866, PALMER, ROSCOE SAMUEL, 1707 BUCK KNOB ROAD, SCALY MTN, NC, 28775, ON RD 1622, 05-04-07, 1.0000, \$80.00, \$28,690., \$0., WESTRICK, DEAN & WESTRICK, ANN

PseudoCube[©]

#AN4C



THE SETUP:

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

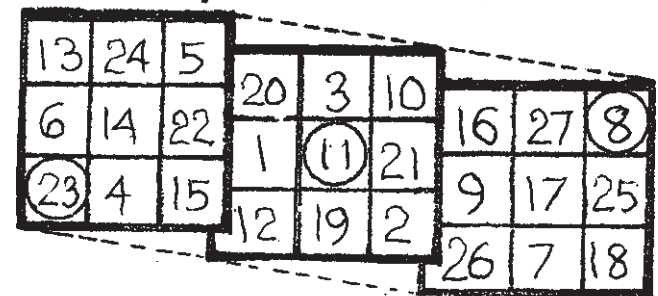
THE CHALLENGE:

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

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

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com

Solution to #DN4B in the May 10 paper



... MULLEN from page 2

privileged in this state, county and town to be blessed with outstanding law enforcement officers.

Unfortunately, on rare occasions and in the line of duty, one of these fine men or women is killed. Last year in the State of North Carolina nine men were killed in the line of duty either by gunshot or automobile accident.

This Memorial Day in Franklin was in their honor, and I was privileged to be there to give the invocation. It was a moving service where the chaplain of the Macon County Sheriff's office was the main speaker and the police chiefs of both Highlands and Franklin had a part to play as a 21-gun salute was given to these fallen officers. We are honored to have such men protecting us in times of crisis and during everyday activities and I salute them all.

Last Friday evening I was privileged to see the new architectural drawing for the proposed Fine Arts Center which will be built on Oak Street soon. In fact, the ground breaking will be Saturday, May 26. I was most impressed with what we will soon have in Highlands and how well the committees in charge of planning this magnificent new facility have done. Towns many times the size of Highlands will not have what we are going to have and I congratulate them for the great work which they have done. We will be a much better place because of the hard work and time which has gone into creating such a fine campus within our town limits. Congratulations to Bob Fisher and the entire board and staff of the Fine Arts Center.

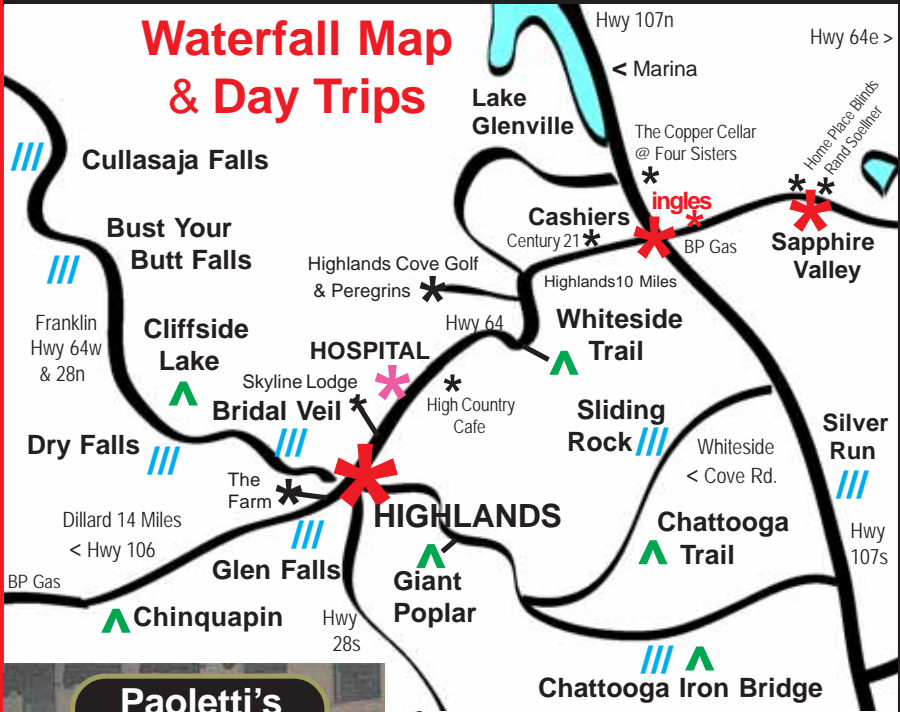
Find It All On This Map

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Highlands Map

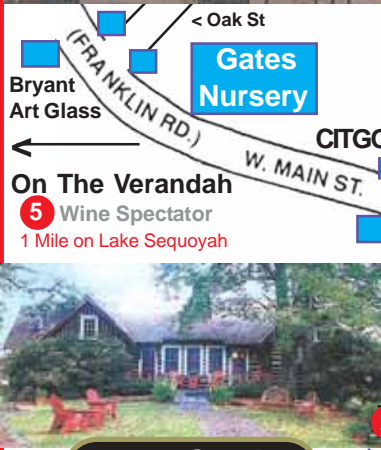
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