

Highlands' Newspaper FREE

Volume 5, Number 18

PDF Version – www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, May 3, 2007

On-going

- Step Aerobics at the Rec Park, 4-5 p.m., Mon., Wed., Thurs. \$5 per class.
- Live music at Fressers in Helen's Barn with Cy Timmons 6 p.m. until.
- Live music at Cyprus Restaurant every Saturday at 9:30 p.m.

Every Monday

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

Every Tuesday

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

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

Every Wednesday

- Noon Prayers at First Presbyterian Church. A brief service of 20-30 minutes, led by Don Mullen.

Friday, May 4

- First meeting of the Ethical Culture Fellowship, 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Peyton home at 295 Bonnie Drive.

Friday & Saturday, May 4 & 5

- At 8 p.m., The Instant Theater presents The Highlands Community Players production of Parallel Lives. Call 342-9197 to reserve tickets.

Saturday, May 5

- Highlands Rotary Club's Monte Carlo Night, at the Highlands Community Center, 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50.

- Mountain Lakes 5-K race. Entry fee is \$15 before race day. Entry forms are at the Town Hall, the Civic Center, the Visitors Center, or on line at www.main.nc.us/hrc.

Sunday, May 6

- The Right Reverend Alex D. Dickson, retired Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee, will preach and celebrate Holy Communion at Christ Anglican Church's 11 a.m. service.

Monday-Friday, May 7 - May 11

- Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week at the Highlands School.

Monday, May 7

- Come share your ideas for the design and activities of the new Pine Street Park at a public meeting at the Highlands Community Center at 5:30 p.m.

- Recreational bridge 1 p.m. at the Rec Park. \$3 per person.

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

Tuesday, May 8

- Business After Hours at ...on the Verandah. Sponsored by OTV and Southern Hands to celebrate Spring and Southern Hands' 20th Year in Highlands. Free Admission. Bring a non-perishable item for The Food Pantry. Food, wine, music – featuring Thea & the Green Man, drawings & certificates. R.S.V.P. the Chamber of Commerce 526-5841.

Thursday-Sunday May 10 - May 13

- HCP's 'Enchanted April' is at PAC on Chestnut Street. Opening night reception catered by Wolfgang's On Main. Evening shows are at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 2:30 p.m. Call: 526-8084.

RiverWalk gets a 'yes' and a 'no'

For the first time in a long time, a developer's attempt to save trees failed to win a variance from the Town Board.

At the May 2 Town Board meeting, commissioners heard from RiverWalk's attorney Billy Clarke who requested a 50-ft. set-

back variance from Heatherwood Lane for one home site rather than the required 100-ft. setback.

"The way the project is laid out now, there are three houses that meet the 100-ft. setback, but one would require moving a lot of trees," said Clarke. "If we could

get a 50-ft. setback variance, we could save about 17 trees with diameters of 12-inches to 26-inches."

For a variance to be granted, it must be determined that undue hardship for the property owner

• See RIVERWALK page 14

McGavran utility pole proposal on hold

McGavran Engineering's proposal to perform a pole attachment and general system review of Highlands' pole plant resulted in mixed reviews.

At Tuesday morning's Public Works Committee meeting, members heard that McGavran would have to redo 80 percent of what town employees have already done but at Wednesday night's Town Board meeting, they heard something else.

"I agree we need better data, but it's something we can do ourselves," said Commissioner Hank Ross, who was unable to attend the Public Works Committee meeting. "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. I would trust them before I would trust McGavran."

At Tuesday's meeting, the committee heard that what the town had done up until now was

• See POLE page 8

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
65-48°F	59-47°F	64-48°F

King & Queen for the night!



Seniors Toni Schmitt and Jason Aspinwall were crowned Queen and King at the Highlands School Junior-Senior Prom Saturday night at the Performing Arts Center. See page 12 for more photos.

Photos by Kim Lewicki

Rec Park pool to get face-lift

The Rec Park swimming pool needs some major repair work done before it can be used this season – a season set to begin May 26.

"The question is do we want to spend this much money on an old pool," asked Commissioner

Amy Patterson.

The pool was built in 1976 as a Centennial Project.

After hearing the scope of the project, commissioners reluctantly agreed to spend the \$47,000 needed to fix it.

• See POOL page 14

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Highlands FD wants to hire help

At a recent Town Board meeting, the board accepted the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department's budget request for 2007-2008 of \$331,388 but questioned its request for hired help.

For several years, Bob Houston, past chief of the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department who retired from the mainstream workforce some years ago, has been a paid, part-time administrative assistant at the department.

But with fire and rescue calls increasing, volunteer members decreasing and the likelihood that Houston may retire from his part-time position in the near future, the department has requested two, part-time, paid positions for 24 hours per week each.

Commissioners asked who else in the county has fire & rescue department employees.

There are 11 fire departments in Macon County and seven of them have paid employees..

The Franklin Fire Department has two full-time employees; Clarks Chapel, Otto, Cullasaja Gorge, Nantahala and West Macon each have one full-time employee and Highlands has one part-time employee. The other four departments are strictly volunteer.

Of the county's 11 fire departments, Franklin has the highest number of calls. Highlands has the second highest number of calls. In 2006, Highlands responded

• See FIRE DEPT. page 9

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

My perspective



Mayor Don Mullen

Progress and new construction in critical areas are sometimes painful but the end result can be gratifying. Such is the case for the new planters being installed on Main Street which have disrupted parking for the businesses for a short period of time. This has been planned and discussed by the Town Board of Commissioners publicly for quite a few months. It was actually approved back in February so that when the weather was right we would begin the construction process of our Main Street area improvement program to be completed before the major tourist season begins.

The board intends to make the town more pleasing to live in and to visit by this beautification process, and I would think that planting these new trees which are more suitable for Highlands would be exactly what people want. Let me say as well that it will not affect the number of parking spaces on Main Street. Normal sized automobiles will be able to fit into the spaces where the planters are being placed although the spaces may be a couple feet shorter. Longer trucks, of course, will not fit there and hardly even in the other spaces either.

Again, we are not decreasing the numbers of parking spaces. Any kind of disruptive construction causes a mess and an inconvenience until it is completed. But the end result is a more pleasing and beautiful downtown area. I ask everyone to bear with us until this is completed in a week or so. In this case the end will justify the means, and I think everyone will be pleased with what we eventually get.

There was an open letter in both the Cashiers paper and The Highlander last week which was quite critical of our community hospital and its Board of Trustees. This letter is being answered in both papers this week by the board. I will comment only to say that the full answer

•See MULLEN page 23

Dear Editor,

Looking out my window this morning at what was yesterday a beautiful blossom-filled Japanese Magnolia, I wish plants had foresight. March comes to Highlands with deceptively warm spring-like days and tricks our plants into going into full bloom. Inevitably winter returns with a vengeance and turns our spring blooms into brown, mushy limb attachments. It is sad, but that is nature. Most trees and plants, with the exception of rhododendron and laurel, obviously do not have the intelligence to foresee this yearly phenomenon.

We humans have learned to expect this, so don't plant until Memorial Day at the earliest.

Some things, though, we have not learned. For instance, when a developer comes to the town and asks to convert an old growth forest or shady green space into a housing subdivision, we go along with it. After all, we are promised jobs, tax revenue, and business. The plats offered to the planning board are covered with what looks to be trees and green grass all around. Well, it looks very appealing.

Every time, though, every single time, the green space is hauled away in enormous truck loads, taking soil that accumulated over hundreds of years. This

• LETTERS •

Foresight Lacking

decomposed matter constitutes the richest of dirt. One of the reasons our native trees and plants thrive here is the wonderful habitat they live in. However, part of the development plan includes uprooting and dragging our hardy plants to the dump. What is left is a level building space which has often been scraped to the rock, which then needs to be dynamited to lay pipes and wires.

After the natural beauty is cut, chopped and dug, the structures take shape; then yards are "laid" on what is often known as construction soil. This soil is inferior to anything resembling real dirt. New trees and bushes are then stuck into the dirt to fend for themselves. Our native plants could survive in droughts; but the new growth often requires frequent and heavy watering. This, of course, uses more of our precious resource of water.

Unless a builder takes the trouble to build around the most enduring and beautiful of what makes Highlands the attractive place it was, we will look artificial and identical to towns in any area of the world. Our uniqueness is what makes this mountain town attractive to travelers and homeowners. I worry.

I worry that the place we came to live will no longer be special. The traffic and the pavement will heat us to a south

Georgia summer temperature and we will all be exiled to our air-conditioned dens.

Maybe if we work on keeping the plants and trees where they have been growing all these years and call a halt to our love affair with pavement, we can salvage a little bit of this mountain retreat.

I have finally gained a bit of foresight. The process of selling developments to the town is always the same, offering the same arguments, attractive plats and promises of prosperity to everyone.

Is this really happening? Let's just think ahead.

**Glenda Bell
Highlands**

Use your right to vote

Dear Editor,

How long will it be before you are not allowed to drive your car to Franklin or Dillard on Monday or Friday so the roads will be free for tourists to get in and out of Highlands? How about your clothes? How long will it be before you are told what to wear and what color it must be? What about "your property?" How long will it be before you are told what color to paint and what your building and landscape must be or until you are forced from your property so illegal immigrants will have a home? There is just no end to doing what would be for the "greater good of the people!"

Does all of this sound insane? How many of you would have thought 40 years ago or even 20 years ago that a group of power-hungry individuals would want to control your property and then actually control it? How many of you would have believed that public prayer would be attacked and prayer forbidden in our schools? How many thought putting a man on the moon was just a joke? How many of you thought you would never see what went on at the White House when Bill Clinton was president? Who could have ever imagined that our troops would not be supported no matter how unpopular a war might be? How many of you thought our government will never tax us off of our property?

The handwriting is on the wall! The upcoming elections are a make or break situation for our town, county, state and country! I urge you to start reviewing the candidates as soon as they file and vote for those who you believe will give us back our rights and protect those rights for future generations!

**Harold Neely
Highlands**

•See LETTERS page 3

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 •

Ronald Jimmy “Charlie Horse” Jennings

Ronald Jimmy “Charlie Horse” Jennings, age 56, of Forest City, NC, formerly of the Pine Creek Community, died Thursday, April 26 at a Charlotte hospital.

He was born in Gaston County, NC the son of Bennett Dexter and Edith Bryson Jennings of Forest City, NC. He was a Veteran of the US Army for 4 years and was a truck driver. He was in the National Guard for 7 years and was a member of the 101st Airborne. He graduated from Southwestern Community College and was a member of the Baptist Church. In addition to his parents, he is survived by his two sons, Casey Jennings and his wife Stephanie of Franklin, NC and Kyle Jennings of Raleigh, NC; a special friend, Evelyn Jennings; one sister, Sheila Conner of Cortland, OH and one brother, Stephen Jennings of Franklin, NC.

Funeral services were held Sunday, April 29 at 2 p.m. at Pine Creek Baptist Church with Rev. Everett Wilson officiating. Full military graveside rites will be held at the Stewart Cemetery with Franklin VFW Post #108 and American Legion Post #7339. Keith Connor, Bobby Connor, Steve Connor, Tim Jennings, Monty Carter and Dwayne Hunter served as pallbearers. Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

• MILESTONE •

Recent grad inducted into honor society

On Sunday, April 22, Jackie Reed, HS graduate class of 2006 and a freshman at UNC-Greensboro, was inducted into Alpha Lambda Delta, a national society that honors academic excellence during a student's first year in college. Jackie made a 4.0 and earned placement on the Chancellor's List for the fall semester 2007.

... LETTERS continued from page 1

Property transaction explained

Dear Editor,

My intention 3 1/2 years ago was to purchase the 19 acres on the Cashiers Road and develop it similar to Highlands Point and with similar restrictive covenants. In meeting with the previous owners on multiple occasions during the two years the word “restrictions” were never mentioned or referred. If the seller wanted restrictions on the land as a whole, then they should have placed those restrictions prior to placing the property on the market.

Due to DOT, EPA, US Army Corps of Engineers and the Division of Water Quality and Macon County Erosion Control restrictions and requirements, plus my “hands-on” supervision of the construction of Rockcliff, the spec home at Highlands Point, I did not have the energy nor desire to complete the development.

Even though called Hemlock Cove and later Old Hemlock Cove, the name nor lot plats were never finalized nor recorded, nor were roads and utilities completed.

In late 2005, I decided to place the property on the market as a whole, like it was when purchased two years prior.

In mid 2006, I was presented an offer which I later accepted. Prior to closing I was told that the purchaser was considering building a 10-story condominium which I was against but about which I had no control or input. However, as a builder after seeing a

rendering, I was a bit less concerned about the project.

The architect was using multi-angles — not a plain square box — and the use of timber frame and stone gave it a lodge appearance. It encumbered less than one acre out of the 19+ acres, less than 20 trees would have been destroyed, with the remaining to be left natural with walking paths and a small pond.

Fire protection would have been built in, eliminating the need for fire ladders to reach the top floor. This is now required in any new mid- and high-rise. Though I was not excited about Highlands having a tall building, I appreciated the fact that a lot less land would be disturbed allowing Henry Wright's rare plants to continue growing. Town homes and condos are needed as many of us are too old and simply tired of maintaining our large homes.

One good thing that took place among all the unpleasantness is some zoning in Macon County and Highlands. Zoning was needed long ago to protect our neighbors from building RV parks, metal sheds, asphalt plants, storage units and many other structures that would make our little paradise a nightmare. These things belong in a commercial area of their own, not next to our homes.

My life has been changed forever over negligence and greed of others.

Sanders Dupree
Highlands

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Through June 2

Storewide Sale

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Variety of Cheesy Baked Casseroles

Sweet Stewed Tomatoes or BBQ Baked Beans

Variety of Rolls and Breads

Assorted Mousse Parfaits

Also enjoy our
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Friday through Sunday



Special
Mother's Day
Brunch 11-3



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



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



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



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



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



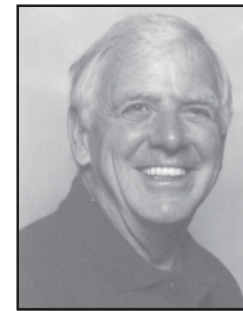
Spectacular grounds 3 BR, 3 BA all on one level. Granite kitchen and baths, hardwood floors, outdoor fireplace finished in native stone. Plus a two car garage, 2 acres and bordered on each side by streams. Amazing landscaping with a waterfall, stone terrace, golf course frontage, bridges and trails canopied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



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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

My Id



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback
is encouraged!
email:

askfredanything@aol.com

Do you remember that old adage, "Keep in touch with yourself?" Well, I'm doing just that. I had a psychology professor during college that would start each class with that saying. Eventually he introduced me to the inner workings of id and the saying took on more meaning.

He gave the class strong answers to a lot of material usually found in the gray area. He took a stand, not necessarily always right, but no one could prove him wrong and his views on psychology were always positive. It was fun to go to class. Unlike math, psychology can be fuzzy but there was nothing fuzzy about this guy. He was high on life and it reflected in his teachings. The fact I still remember his classes a half century later tells it all.

"You can't love others unless you first love yourself" was also one of his favorite lines. "When you wake in the morning, kiss both arms many times and tell yourself how much you're in love with yourself" he would continue. "Then take that love of self and project it to everyone you come in contact with. Love is subliminally transmittable."

He believed the reason there was so much unhappiness in the world was that people do not know or have not become content with their being. Id is that tiny section of your "you" that defines who and what you are: your ego, your super-ego. It is the thing that separates you from the rest of humanity. You can't change your id but you can change how you use it. You could call it your soul if you're so inclined.

Since one cannot change their id without brain surgery, it is best to get comfortable with whatever is there. To do that, one must learn who he is and who he is not. Thank God for police work because there is no better occupation to help you find this out. The very nature of police work forces officers to confront their id. Many quit early in their careers because they didn't like what they saw or couldn't bear to look further.

Are you aware people go to their graves and never get to know themselves? They build strong shields early in life and never drop them until death. Hard to believe, but true. Seasoned police officers, on the other hand, can be some of the best psychologists on the planet. I knew a cop who would un-marry people on

domestic violence calls. I can't tell you how many women avoided beatings because of his ceremony. Illegal, yes, but it worked.

Just for fun, here's a short list of idiosyncrasies I have identified lurking in my 'id' developed way back during my days as an embryo. First, I have an insatiable appetite for humor. It didn't develop, it was always there. As a sperm (I call them wiggles) I was probably telling jokes to the other sperm. This is bad. I am capable of any behavior imaginable, regardless of the

circumstances. That's troublesome and I monitor it constantly. Unfortunately, I am also a pompous ass. I know, I know, some of you disagree. Next, I love to exaggerate and I could look you right in the eye and lie if my life depended on it; in fact, it has. I probably would have been a good actor. Sometimes I have a clear conscience when I probably shouldn't and I blame id on everything I do that goes wrong. It's my scapegoat.

Because police work affords one a front row seat to life and because life is sometimes very ugly, an officer must find something in his "id" to help him cope with what he is subjected to during the course of his career. Because my "id" affords me a sense of humor and a superior attitude, police work was not only easy for me, but enjoyable and fun. I was successful as an undercover narcotics officer for so many years because I was a good actor. Actors lie. The better I lied, the more dealers went to the slammer. And when things became real gruesome or intolerable, I laughed it off. What a great set of escape mechanisms. Oh, and the term "humble" is not stored anywhere in my id. I envy people who have that trait. Well, this is who I am and who I am not. How about you?

P.S. - Don't forget to kiss your arms and keep in touch with yourself tomorrow morning!

Highlands United Methodist Church



Says THANK YOU
to the Faculty,
Staff,
& Administration
of Highlands School!

• ANOTHER VIEW •

American's fascination with guns

Gun control in America is a hot topic. Had I been unaware of it before, I would know now. Some columns do evoke a response. The fact is that I was well aware and I must admit harbor some bias in the matter. While I lived in Houston, I saw too many kids killed while playing with weapons intended for family protection. We lost a guy who had been shot with a .38 in a case of road rage. I must be fair and concede that I cared for another driver whose head was bashed in with a five iron, and I'm not advocating golf club control. He too died, but the golf club is not the weapon of choice in cases of road rage, Mafia hits, domestic killings, murder-suicides, robberies, or "drug deals gone bad."

Not many people would die during an argument at a family barbeque if the only weapons at hand were a long fork and a steak knife. That is not to claim the number would be zero, only far fewer than today. And who has time, during a passionate dispute, to Google



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

"home made explosives," then run out, buy a bag of fertilizer and other essential ingredients, return home, mix the components, and blow up one's spouse? The same can be said for response to drunken disagreements, or arguments about the best running back in history. It's OK with me if you don't realize that it was Jim Brown, but just give me a sound thrashing instead of a fatal shooting.

Until recently I enjoyed the modest degree of celebrity I had achieved and welcomed a person stopping me in church, at the market, or on the street and commenting on my column. The next time someone asks me if I'm the guy who writes "those articles," I'm going to answer, "yes. You're not going to shoot me are you?" I honestly don't understand America's fascination with firearms. Some guns are beautifully crafted, objects of art. Others are just butt ugly killing machines. Many Americans feel safer at homes with a gun in the bedside table, and guns have no doubt

thwarted many an attempted robbery. Unfortunately the same guns have been used in games of "cowboys and Indians" as a final solution to a family dispute, or to demonstrate courage in a drunken game of Russian roulette.

The militia argument keeps coming up. I've re-read the second amendment and it still seems to me that "well regulated militia" means well regulated militia. Maybe in the event of foreign invasion or tyrannical domestic rule, the good old boys would rise up in rebellion and turn the tables on the bad guys, but I doubt it. It is not the 18th century. What nation could possibly invade the USA in the 21st century? As far as domestic despots, I don't care much for George Bush and you may not have liked Bill

Clinton, but even in the case of Bush, infringement of person liberties has been modest. If you are so interested in the "Bill of Rights," how can you support the Patriot Act which for folks who subscribe to the idea of the "camel's nose under the tent flap," is a scary beginning? I guess you believe that if restriction of personal, constitutionally guaranteed freedoms becomes too burdensome, we can fall back on the second amendment and just shoot our way back to democratic rule.

A few guns lying around for hunting shouldn't pose much of a threat, but I don't think a magazine that holds 30 or 40 rounds is needed to bring down a deer. I found, in just a few seconds, on-

•See ANOTHER VIEW page 16

The Chambers Agency, REALTORS



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www.chambersagency.net

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Peregrine Opens May 10



AFTERWARD SWING BY PEREGRINE

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



HIGHLANDS COVE
GOLF

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

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

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



PEREGRINE
AT THE COVE

HAS YOUR BANK ACCOUNT KEPT UP WITH MACON COUNTY'S ???



6/30/2003 – \$13,915,197

6/30/2004 – \$15,347,271

6/30/2005 – \$21,241,049

6/30/2006 – \$27,375,489

6/30/2007 – \$? ? ? ? ? ?



This massive accumulation of cash has been accomplished because, during this period, the property tax rate has been higher than necessary.

The Commission is contemplating keeping the rate on par with last year's which will doubtless add to the already extremely high level of cash.

What will stop this upward spiral of your cash
in the County's bank account ???

Only YOU letting your Commissioners know that
enough is enough.

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

This information is brought to you by your friends at
FreedomWorks and the Macon County Taxpayers Association

• THE CONSERVATIVE POV •

Brave New World - Part 2

The Yellow Roads of Texas (OK, MO, etc.)

Last week we learned of the SPP, the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America, the TTC, Trans Texas Corridor, the NAU, North American Union. This week we'll explore the potential fallout of this grand scheme.

First, have you noticed when a program is named by any level of government, to understand what the program involves, you need to reverse what the name seems to say, and then you have a good starting point. So, what does SPP mean for the U.S.?

Remember, the SPP represents the importation of Chinese products in closed containers carried by Chinese cargo ships, off-loaded at Mexican ports, shipped by Mexican transports, truck and rail, deposited in a Smart Port terminal in Kansas City, inspected (or not) by Mexican agents, and distributed throughout the U.S. and Canada.

First, consider the "security" part. Plunging, once again into the land of myth-ology, we recall the misfortune of the Trojans when, after a decade of fruitless siege, the Greeks hollowed out a huge wooden horse, filled it with warriors and rolled it into Troy. Thinking they had outlasted the Greeks, the Trojans got drunk, the Greeks jumped out, and the rest, as they say, is history, albeit of a mythical nature. Wouldn't a cargo container make just a great modern day "Trojan Horse?" Sounds like an open-border policy and then some.

Second, the "prosperity" part. As I write this, the Dow is setting new records.

Corporate U.S. is booming. Employment is at "full employment levels," Mexicans are pouring over the border, seeking a piece of our prosperity. As for Canada, things seem to be moving right along. We buy huge amounts of oil from both Mexico and Canada, so their governments have plenty of petrobucks to help their people if they choose to. But we are the 800-pound elephant in the room, so whose prosperity will be enhanced by this trilateral agreement? Tain't ours.

Third, the "partnership" part. Well, if you call chucking our sovereignty and being governed, at least in part, by a socialist and a dictator, a desirable environment for your progeny to live in, you'll be happy with the new deal.

Border security problem solved; no borders. Currency exchange calculations a



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

bother? Forget it, the "amero" will spend in Chihuahua, Chicago and Calgary. Talking about pounding square pegs in round holes, making this thing palatable is going to take a whole lot of spinning. If the Euros can do it, I suppose we can too.

In December, Georgia Sen. Nancy Schaefer attended a meeting of the Eagle Forum in Washington, during which

she was briefed on SPP and NAU. She shared what she had learned with Georgia's U.S. Senators Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson. They claimed total ignorance of the whole sordid affair. This plan was 18 months old and evidently no one outside the Executive Branch and the Texas Dept. of Transportation was aware of the giant giveaway already in progress. You see, since the preparations were being done by Texas and foreign business interests, Congress didn't need to know anything about it, and they didn't.

The Kilo decision allowing the taking of private property for business interests cleared the way for the massive exercise of the "eminent domain" provision necessary to get this show on the road. That decision didn't seem to make sense then but it does now. Only after President Bush's attempt to direct the management of U.S. ports to mid-east operators brought a firestorm of protest did he seemingly drop the idea of globalizing our assets.

Nice try, but Mexican ports will just have to do.

The SPP had its genesis on March 23, 2005 in Waco, TX when Bush, then President of Mexico Vicente Fox and then Prime Minister Paul Martin of Canada met in a summit called to integrate the United States with Mexico and Canada. This formal agreement signed by these three heads-of-state was accomplished without the knowledge or approval of Congress or the American People. Why in Waco? Hint: Bush used to be Governor of TX. Lots of cover.

Now, ask yourself, if this is a good deal for U.S., why so clandestine? Bush being a politician should welcome the plaudits that would result from the story being told.

What's pushing this deal? Just remember, when things happen that seemingly defy explanation, just keep asking why. I'll try to explain why in a future column.

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... POLE continued from page 1

basically unusable by McGavran. But Town Engineer Lamar Nix said the town's inventory of poles and everything on them is extremely detailed.

"I don't know how it could be more complete," he said. "We're missing one layer, and that's the number of attachments per pole, but we could backtrack the 750-800 poles we've done and add that layer to the data."

He said his crew could do that part in two weeks. Then they could start on the remaining poles and include that "layer" from the start.. There are 2,600 poles in the plant.

Nix said the pole plant is being logged into a computer program so that a query on a pole lists the attachments and whatever is on the pole "every nut, bolt, conductor, everything, including a photo of the pole, said Nix.

"This is the main reason we hired Matt Shuler," said Commissioner Ross. "I think we should let him finish the job."

Tuesday's Public Works Committee meeting got off to a rough start when Ted McGavran and Ed Sullivan of McGavran

Engineering Services suggested the town start from square one to assess the system.

"I'm not saying this to knock the staff; it's like this in a lot of municipal systems. But it's my perception that this is not a well-documented plant," said McGavran. "Nothing ties all the information together. All the pieces need to be in an operational format."

Since 2004, the town has been taking steps to document its pole plant starting with contracting out the job of locating and counting each pole for \$10,000.

More recently, the town's GIS Technician, Matt Schuler, has been tagging and numbering each pole noting its GIS location and logging all the information into a database.

But McGavran says much more needs to be done and though it's possible his firm could use some of the information previously gathered, it would have to start over to gather the information missed for the purposes of documenting the entire electrical system and communication system simultaneously.

Besides walking and documenting the

plant, McGavran Engineering would also draw up a contract which would be given to current attachees and future attachees outlining fees and agreements. The firm would also be the conduit between all attachees and the town holding attachees 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.

McGavran said the town isn't charging its attachees enough rent – 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.

Town Engineer Lamar Nix said one big problem the town has faced over the years is getting attachees to bring their attachments into compliance.

"We just can't make them comply and my question to you is how would you get them to comply when it's not clear whose fault it is and who's going to pay for it?" he asked.

He said the problem of attachments on town poles and compliance issues have been compounded over the years. Many times the fault lies with all three entities – the town, Verizon and Northland Cable – but the town's problem began with the building boom in the mid-80s.

"In a three- to five-year span, suddenly there were houses being built everywhere and transformers needed to put everywhere," he said. "Where there were phone and cable attachments previously, we put them out of compliance when we put on the transformers, but it had to be done and now the poles have to be changed out to fit everything."

Town Administrator Richard Betz suggested the town couldn't bill those costs to Northland and Verizon but McGavran said all three entities could shoulder the cost of pole changeouts.

In 2006-2007, the town budgeted \$100,000 to change out poles. Over the past year, the town outsourced the job to Haynes Construction and 100 poles have been changed out. The town estimates up to 700 need to be changed but McGavran suspects that number is too low. Regardless, depending on available money, it could take the town five years.

Sullivan said ideally compliance and pole problems instigated by the addition of transformers should have been addressed in the 80s, but at this point, it's very likely the cost of changing out poles to accommodate the town's needs and attachees' needs could be split by the town, Verizon and Northland.

"The point is they need your poles and you have to maintain your system," said Sullivan. "They are there as a courtesy. Our job is to see that your system meets all the codes, that all violations are reported, and everyone stays in compliance," said Sullivan. "There is no timetable. You decide what you want to spend and what solution

•See POLE page 16

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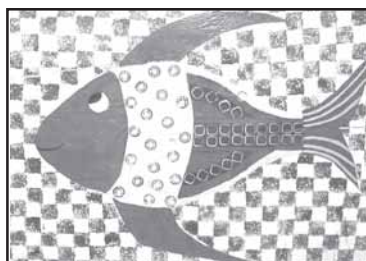
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... FIRE DEPT. continued from page 1

ed to 396 calls – 35 more than in 2005 – with the increase coming in the fire and related category which had a total of 263 calls – 55 more than last year.

The department traditionally has 30 volunteers but with members retiring and fewer people stepping up to fill the spots, it's down to 26 members.

The two fire departments with the largest coverage area are Highlands and Nantahala. The Highlands Fire District includes the town of Highlands and the Highlands Township – a total of 10 inhabited square miles.

Due to its property valuations, which are double Franklin's, Highlands has the lowest fire tax rate. Franklin's 2007-2008 valuation is \$1,440,612,954 and its tax rate

for the upcoming year will be .031; Highlands' property valuation is \$3,816,832,060 with a tax rate of .008. Highlands F&D requested a .009 rate but "too keep to a revenue neutral budget," the MC Fire & Rescue Commission reduced it to .008. That will decrease Highlands' F&D requested budget by \$35,000.

Interestingly, Franklin F&D's rate was increased from .030 to .031 despite valuation increases there which translates to more money for its budget.

Highlands Fire District has the best municipal rating than anywhere else in the county which translates to lower home insurance rates for citizens. Franklin comes in second. Highlands' rating is 5 on a scale

• See FIRE DEPT. page 15

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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

The spread of democracy

Last week I wrote about democracy and I'd like to say a little more about it this week. I suggested that a sense of national identity was a necessary condition before a country could become a democracy.

What other factors are necessary for democracy to succeed in a country?

Fareed Zakaria is the editor of *Newsweek International*; he also writes a regular column for *Newsweek*. He has developed a list of "preconditions for democracy."

In December of 2001, he published a column called "How to Save the Arab World." "At the start the United States must recognize its true goals. We do not seek democracy in the Middle East—at least not yet. We seek first what might be called the preconditions for democracy, or what I have called 'constitutional liberalism'—the rule of law, individual rights, private property, independent courts, the separation of church and state... Britain and the United States were both countries governed by law and in which human rights were honored well before they became full-fledged electoral democracies. We should not assume that what took hundreds of years in the West can happen overnight in the Middle East."

(www.fareedzakaria.com)

I think you could add universal public education and an independent citizen army to Zakaria's list.

Unfortunately, the people in the Bush administration don't seem to have an understanding of these necessary elements that must be in place before a country is ready for a full-fledged democracy. Iraq is currently suffering from this misapprehension of what democracy requires, but there are many other examples.

"Rapid democratization has been attempted in many poor, ethnically divided societies in the last two decades, and the results are sobering. Democratic elections in the former Yugoslavia



Katie Brugger
k-brugger@hotmail.com

produced landslide victories for the hate-mongering Franjo Tudjman in Croatia and the genocidal Slobodan Milosevic in Serbia. In Rwanda in the early 1990s, democratization fomented ethnic extremism, yielding the majority-supported Hutu Power movement and the ensuing slaughter of Tutsis. In Indonesia in 1998, sudden democratization after the fall of Suharto's 30-year dictatorship produced a wave of anti-Chinese demagoguery and confiscations, leading to the devastating flight of more than \$40 billion in Chinese-controlled capital." (*Washington Post* Jan. 12, 2004, "A Meltdown, Not a Melting Pot" by Amy Chua and Jed Rubenfeld)

To continue with Zakaria's column: "Over the last three decades there has been a remarkable pattern in the progress of political freedom around the world. Those countries that have made the transition from dictatorship to democracy with greatest success—Spain, Portugal, Chile, Taiwan, South Korea, Mexico—all traveled along a similar road.

"The regimes first liberalized the economy, not out of any desire to expand freedom but rather because they wanted to get rich. But this expansion of economic liberty had steady spillover effects. Economic reform meant the beginnings of a genuine rule of law—capitalism needs contracts—openness to the world, access to information and, perhaps most important, the

development of a business class."

South Korea didn't become a democracy until 1987, after widespread student protests forced the military leader to agree to elections. Taiwan also transitioned from martial law to democracy in the late 1980s.

Freedom House is an independent, non-governmental organization that was initially created in 1941 (by Eleanor Roosevelt and Wendell Willkie, among others) to urge the U.S. government to adopt policies supporting democracy and human rights at home and abroad. If you go to their website, <http://www.freedomhouse.org> and click on "freedom in the world" on the left under Publications, you will see a map of the world with countries marked as free, partly free, and not free. Also you can select any country and get a detailed report that explains its ranking.

Freedom House sponsored a study called 'How Freedom is Won: From Civic Struggle to Durable Democracy,' which focused on 67 countries where dictatorships have fallen since 1972. "The report's central conclusion is that how a transition from authoritarianism occurs and the forces that drive the transition have significant impact on the success or failure of democratic reform. In large measure, the study finds that transitions generated by nonviolent civic coalitions lead to far better results for freedom than top-down transitions initiated by elites." [from freedomhouse.org]

At the beginning of this year, Zakaria wrote a column entitled "The Limits of Democracy," (Jan. 29): "[I]t is striking to read this year's annual survey of 'freedom in the world,' released last week by Freedom House. The report points out that 2006 was a bad year for liberty, under attack from creeping authoritarianism in Venezuela and Russia, a

• See BRUGGER page 20

• HIS & HERS •

Junk justice produces junk law

On 2 April, 2007, the US Supreme Court issued its decision in *Massachusetts v. EPA*. The Court ruled 5-4, over two dissents, that the Environmental Protection Agency must regulate carbon dioxide as a pollutant in order to reduce global warming.

There are only two problems with this decision. It is based on junk science. And it is based on junk law.

First, the science: the opinion by Justice Stevens spends its opening section on a review of mostly international reports which conclude that the Earth is warming up in recent decades, and that this is due (primarily) to human activity. Only a few of those reports are honest enough in obscure footnotes to reveal that there have been at least 10 warming periods since the last glacial era. The most recent of these ended in 1,300 AD when there was a shocking lack of either cars on the road or coal-fired generating plants.

Somehow, Justice Stevens missed the point that global warming has happened before. That it has been warmer than it is now. And that this happened mostly when humans were living in caves, or were non-existent. But that is not the worst error in this opinion.

On the legal side, the opinion notes that Congress has passed two statutes on global warming, asking for studies and reports, but declined to give the EPA jurisdiction to act on the subject. Finally, the EPA itself opened the subject, received 50,000 comments, held hearings, and concluded that it lacked jurisdiction. Even if it did have jurisdiction, the EPA decided it was wise to follow the lead of Congress.

In the face of a no from Congress and a no from the EPA, the Court then orders the opposite result. In answer to the EPA's objection that wrenching policy judgments that could alter the entire economy of the US should be made by Congress, the Court says only, "Although we have neither the expertise nor the authority to evaluate these policy judgments, it is evident they have nothing to do with whether greenhouse gas emissions contribute to climate change." Yet in the decision itself, the Court claims both the expertise and the authority.

What do the two dissents say about this legislation from the bench?

Chief Justice Robert's dissent, joined



Michelle Mead & John Armor
michiemead@aol.com
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by Justices Scalia, Thomas and Alito, states early on, "I would reject these challenges as non-justiciable. Such a conclusion involves no judgment on whether global warming exists, what causes it, or the extent of the problem.... [R]edress of grievances of the sort at issue here is the function of Con-

gress and the chief executive."

This dissent attacks the majority for disobeying the Court's own prior cases in order to conclude that Massachusetts even has a claim that can stand up in court, under the existing rules for damages and redress. It refers to the "Court's sleight-of-hand" in finding possible damages which are less than the margin of error in the very maps that counsel presented in evidence.

Roberts concludes that in this case the Court has transgressed "the proper — and properly limited — role of the courts in a democratic society."

Justice Scalia's dissent, joined by the Chief Justice and the other two dissenters, addresses the merits of the case. EPA, like every other federal agency, was created to exercise its judgment in its area of assigned expertise. "EPA's interpretation of ... its judgment is not only reasonable, it is the most natural reading of the text. The Court nowhere explains why this interpretation is incorrect."

He also attacks the Court's reading of the EPA statute, concluding that "Evidently, the Court defers only to those reasonable interpretations [by the EPA] that it favors." This is the crux of the bad law in this decision. It is not the sworn purpose of the Court to reverse what Congress, or its agencies, have done, simply because the Court disagrees with the outcome from the other branches of government. Nowhere does the Constitution give that kind of power to unelected judges, who do not answer to the public for any errors in their decisions.

This is emphasized in the final sentence of this dissent: "No matter how important the underlying policy issues at stake, this Court has no business substituting its own desired outcome for the reasoned judgment of the responsible agency."

• 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.

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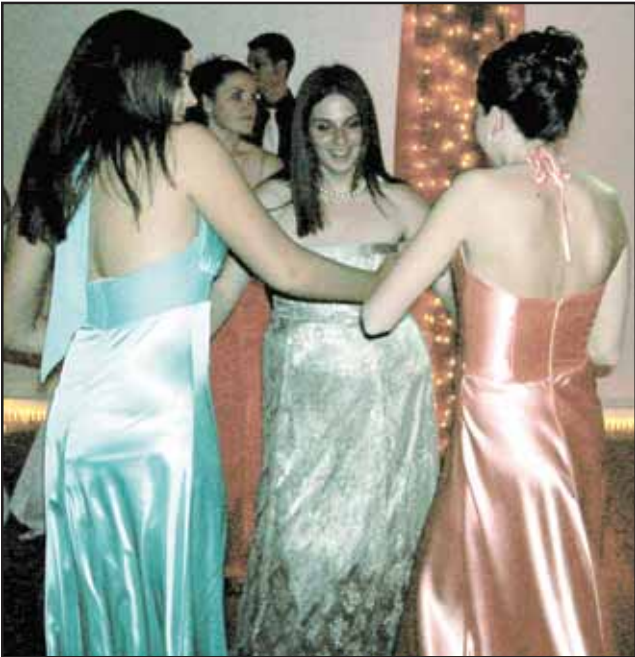
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Club makes 'Teacher Appreciation' posters



Last Friday, members of The Girls' Clubhouse did a service project for the Highlands School PTO, making posters for Teacher Appreciation Week, May 7-11. Next week they will hang them around the school.

... RIVERWALK continued from page 1

may result from strict compliance.

All four of the following criteria must be met for a variance to be granted: there are special circumstances or conditions affecting the property so that strict application of the ordinance would deprive the owner of the reasonable use of the land; that the variance is necessary for the preservation of the environment; the need is peculiar to the parcel and not generally characteristic of other parcels in the vicinity; and that the granting of the variance won't be detrimental to public health and safety.

Clarke said the special circumstances are that moving the house site to save the trees and impact the environment less is reasonable; imposing the setback makes it unusual and deprives the owner of reasonable use of the land; that the request is peculiar to the parcel; and granting of the variance would not affect the public health or welfare.

"I don't think anything is denied them by not granting this variance," said Commissioner Amy Patterson. "The peculiar aspect of the parcel is due to the placement of the road they built. We have rules and unless the circumstances are overwhelming, I can't see breaking the rules."

Commissioner Dennis DeWolf agreed.

"The decision to put the road there was for density reasons. It was something they did."

Commissioner Hank Ross said he preferred the current triangular design of home sites on the parcel to a linear design situated along the lane, anyway.

"The triangular design is more appealing and more in line with what we want for clustering. Otherwise it's like Anywhere, U.S.A.," he said.

The developers said shifting the house site toward the lane and out of the woods would save trees because the new site is in an open area, but the board didn't budge.

Commissioner Herb James made a motion to deny; Commissioner Alan Marsh seconded it and the motion passed unanimously.

However the board did grant RiverWalk a road-grade variance in line with N.C. DOT's grade on the grounds that it routinely grants such variances.

"For the sake of erosion control, I think we should let them go ahead," said Commissioner Ross.

With the grade variance granted, paving can begin as early as May 15.

The board granted the variance subject to the Planning Board's decision on May 21.

... POOL continued from page 1

"I think it has to be done," said Mayor Don Mullen at the May 2 Town Board meeting.

About 1 ½ weeks ago, damage to the pool was discovered. The fiber-tech layer called Marcite has pulled itself off the basin of the pool. The Marcite was applied in 1996 and Highlands weather, specifically wind, freezing and thawing, are likely the culprits in its destruction.

Sun Stuff Pools & Spas of Asheville has made similar repairs to pools at the Asheville Country Club and at the Highlands Country Club. The owner said his

company can start May 21 and can be finished in a week.

The project involves removing the existing Marcite, aqua-jetting the entire surface, grinding down the tiles so they are flush and then re-applying a finish.

Chalker says the pool is old but it's sound.

In addition, the board asked Town Engineer Lamar Nix to survey the the pool to verify that a new coating of Gunite on the exterior is all that's needed to maintain the structure.



Members of the Highlands Community Players cast of "Enchanted April" pose with director Ronnie Spilton. From left: Jim Gordon, Ronnie Spilton, Jody Read, Becky Schilling, Madeleine Davis. Seated: Gina Pauratore, Jim Loring. Not pictured: Stuart Armor and Shirley Williams. The play runs May 10 to May 20 at the Performing Arts Center. Call 526-8084 for tickets.

'Enchanted April' is May's play

Excitement is running high for cast, director, and production team. It's opening night for the Highlands Community Players production of "Enchanted April," which begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street in Highlands. The opening night audience, as usual, is invited after the performance to a reception catered by Wolfgang's on Main.

Performances continue this weekend, Friday and Saturday, May 11 and 12, 7:30 p.m. The Sunday matinee, at 2:30 p.m., on May 13, Mother's Day, is perfect for an outing with your mother to celebrate the day. Performances continue through next weekend, Thursday, May 17, — Sunday, May 20.

The play lives up to its name—it's enchanting! It begins in England during a rainy winter month shortly after the end of World War I when Lotty Wilton, a London housewife, notices an "advert" offering a small castle for rent in Italy, complete with "sunshine and wisteria." Knowing that her husband will not approve of such a venture and aware that she cannot afford the rent using her own resources, Lotty recruits three other women willing to share the expenses.

The scene shifts to Italy; the month is now April. The four women, of different ages, back-

grounds and temperaments, take up residence in the charming old castle, soon encountering difficulties adjusting to each other's personalities and habits. But amid San Salvatore's flowers and sunshine, spirits are refreshed; unexpected romances and friendships flourish along with the wisteria.

Several of HCP's most accomplished actors are cast in play, as well as two newcomers. Madeleine Davis, Becky Schilling, Jody Read, Shirley Williams, Stuart Armor, and Jim Gordon are well known to HCP audiences for their excellent performances. Gina Pauratore, new to HCP but with a long list of theatrical credits from New Orleans and elsewhere, is a welcome addition; while Jim Loring, a Londoner himself, is on stage for the first time and doing a most creditable job.

Tickets for HCP are available at the HCP box office in the Performing Arts Center, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Tickets for the Sunday matinees can be purchased at the box office starting at 1 p.m. before the 2:30 matinee. Tickets for adults are \$15; for students, \$8; and for groups of 10 or more, \$12. Pay by cash or check. Call 526-8084 for reservations.

"Enchanted April" is suitable for young people, but young children will probably not find it of interest.

... FIRE DEPT. continued from page 9

of 1 to 9 and Franklin's is 6. The lower the number the better the rating.

This year, the fire departments in Macon County set the fire tax rate based on a collection rate of 97.1%; last year the collection rate was 96.74%.

Highlands based its budget request on a .009 fire tax rate down from last year's .012, but the Fire and Rescue Commission reduced it further to .008.

"Our office is required by N.C. General Statute to develop a revenue neutral budget in revaluation years and the Macon County Board of Commissioners has made the decision to approve the county budget in general this year as a revenue neutral budget," said Warren Cabe, Macon County Emergency Services Director.

For Highlands, that one digit translates to \$35,000 less on the budget bottom line. Based on last year's collection rate of 96.74% and minus the \$35,000, the budget will be \$296,388 rather than \$331,388.

As of last week, the MC Fire & Rescue Commission OK'd the following fire district tax rates:

- Franklin: .031, up from last year's .030.
- Clarks Chapel: .039, down from last year's .040.
- Otto: .040, same as last year.
- Cullasaja: .034, down from last year's .044.
- West Macon: .047, down from last year's .055.
- Scaly Mountain: .032, down from last year's .034.
- Burningtown: .046, down from last year's .052.
- Cowee: .056, up from last year's .054.
- Nantahala: .047, down from last year's .058.
- Mountain Valley: .054, down from last year's .061.
- and Highlands: .008, down from last year's .012. Highlands has the lowest fire tax rate and the highest municipal rating in the county.

In 2005-2006 the fire tax on a \$400,000 home in Highlands was \$48. For 2007-2008, based on the .008 rate, it will be \$32.

The next Macon County Commission meeting is May 14 at 6 p.m. in the boardroom at the courthouse in Franklin.

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... POLE continued from page 8

you want and we will make it happen."

McGraven said 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. But a solid contractual agreement is needed to get any of that started.

McGavran would charge \$25,000 for a comprehensive documentation of the pole plant and up to \$20,000 to draw up contracts for attachees which would include getting them to agree to all terms. He said he could have the plant documented in 60-90 days.

Commissioner Alan Marsh, also a

member of the Public Works Committee, suggested checking McGavran Engineering's references before moving forward but was initially in favor of the first two parts of the proposal – the documentation and the contract delivery.

But in the end, the board decided to take the McGavran proposal under advise-

ment even though it liked the contract development and negotiating element of the proposal.

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

... ANOTHER VIEW continued from page 5

line, a 40-round magazine for an AK-47 for \$24.95 (a \$50 value) and I didn't even have to leave the house. These items are not legal everywhere, but shipping to North Carolina was not prohibited.

I once had a good friend whose rule was, "Don't mess with my Mom, my car, or my girl friend." This gun issue seems similar; visceral, primal. People really believe that they have a right to unrestricted gun ownership, and regardless of where else the government might interfere, "Don't mess with my guns."

Federal legislation passed tomorrow would not restore the lives of the Virginia Tech victims, nor would it, in all probability, prevent the next slaughter. There are just too many guns already in the home and on the street for us to stop gun crimes overnight. Maybe we can

never completely eliminate them, but to advocate continuation of gun sales because so many already exist is a strange argument, akin to arguing that because junkies have so many needles, we should not limit the distribution of needles. I know, I know. The ownership of hypodermic needles is not guaranteed in the constitution.

It seems that there is something in our national psyche that makes repeated murderous attacks inevitable. Maybe it is as simple as availability of guns. Maybe it's our relentless hold on our frontier heritage. Perhaps we are an inherently violent society, and perhaps our heterogeneity contributes to that violent streak. Whatever the root cause, the instrument, in the sour symphony of killing, in an overwhelming percentage of cases, is a gun.

Dickson to preach at Christ Anglican

The Right Reverend Alex D. Dickson, retired Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee, and his wife, Jane, is visiting Highlands this week. He will preach and celebrate Holy Communion at Christ Anglican Church at 11 a.m., Sunday, May 6. Worship services are at the Highlands Community Center adjacent to the baseball field. Visitors and friends are welcome!

Bishop Dickson is currently serving as Pastoral Bishop for the Southeastern Convocation of the Anglican Communion Network of Dioceses and Parishes. Highly active in the national Episcopal Church for many years, Bishop Dickson previously served on the Executive

Council, the Standing Liturgical Communion, the Council for the Development of Ministry, the Joint Task Force for Lay Ministry, and served at 14 consecutive General Conventions from 1964 to 1997, first as a Deputy, and then as a Bishop. He also was a member of the Board of Regents of the University of the South.

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

Prior to becoming the first Bishop of West Tennessee, he served as Rector and Headmaster of All Saints Episcopal Church and All Saints Episcopal School, Vicksburg, MS.

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



Christ Anglican Church

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Visiting Rector Series

Holy Communion:

Sunday, May 6, 11 a.m.

The Very Reverend Alex D. Dickson,
Retired Bishop of the
Retired Bishop of West Tennessee

Holy Communion:

Sunday May 13, 11 a.m.

The Reverend

Dr. Timothy R. Smith, Rector,
Holy Trinity Anglican Church
Jackson, Mississippi

Holy Communion:

Sunday May 20, 11 a.m.

The Reverend Mark Clavier
Rector, All Saints Anglican Church
Asheville, NC

Worship services are at the
Highlands Community Center
on Highway 64 next to the ballpark
(the former Highlands Conference Center).

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www.christanglicanchurch.com
email-office@christanglicanchurch.com

Visitors and friends are welcome!

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Changing the default settings

Excerpts from sermon preached on April 29



Pastor Eddie Engram
Highlands United
Methodist Church

Growing up I was a good boy. I was a good boy because I always did what my mama told me to do. Mama always said, "mind your p's and q's" And I did. I tried to mind them even though I didn't really know what p's and q's were. I think p's and q's were things like "always clean your plate." And I did - even if it meant secretly scooping the mashed potatoes off the plate into my napkin and sticking them into my pocket. I think minding your p's and q's also meant being quiet in church. And still to this day I can stand at the very spot between the holly bushes at Lebanon United Methodist Church in High Point, NC, where I got spanked by my dad for not minding that p and q. Another p and q was never talk to strangers. I tried my best to talk only to the folk I knew and with whom I was comfortable. Mama's advice served me well. In most cases, it made good sense. You always clean your plate, the reasoning was, because there was always a little child in Cambodia or Africa who was starving. To clean your plate meant to appreciate the food that you had and not to waste. Good sense. But the guilt of not cleaning your plate even when you were full tended to teach me the habit of overeating. Then there's never talk to strangers. That makes sense for protection and safety. But in another light, what do you do when you are seeking to follow the example of Jesus, who was always talking to strangers, reaching out to them, loving them, and eating with them - the very ones your mama said to avoid?

On my computer, when I am typing in Microsoft Word, preparing the bulletin on any given Sunday, the font we use is Arial. Every so often, I will click the mouse and take the cursor to a blank line, and suddenly, without warning or notice, the font, will go to Times New Roman. It drives me nuts. Why? Well, being a geek but not a computer geek, I have been told that the reason why this happens is that Times New Roman is the default setting. That means, the computer program has been pre-set with a style of font, in this case, Times New Roman, so that if a font on a line or page is not specified, and the computer does not know what type to use, or if there is some glitch, and the computer gets confused, it will automatically revert back to its pre-existing settings - it will go back to the very first thing it was instructed to do - in my computer's case, type in Times New Roman.

We're much like my computer. We too have our default settings. Our default settings are the ways we were programmed and set up to believe about things.

•See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 23

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

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

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

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

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Brian Sullivan - 526-2968
Monday, April 2: 5 p.m. - Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
Tuesday, April 3: 5 p.m. - Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
Wednesday, April 4: 5 p.m. - Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
Maundy Thursday, April 5: 7 p.m. - Holy Eucharist w/Feet Washing (Sanctuary)
Good Friday, April 6: 12 noon - Stations of the Cross; 1:30 p.m. - Good Friday Eucharist & Meditation (Chapel); 7 p.m.; "Seven Last Words" Choral Presentation
Saturday, April 7: 7 p.m. - Holy Eucharist w/Baptism & Meditation (Chapel)
Easter Sunday, April 8: 9 a.m. - Holy Eucharist; 9:45 a.m. - Choir Practice; 11 a.m. - Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
• Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.

FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN

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

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

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. J. Hunter Coleman, Pastor, 526-3175
Sun.: Worship - 11 a.m.; Sun.School - 9:30 & 9:45.
Mondays: 8 a.m. - Mens Bible Discussion & Breakfast
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. - Seekers
Wednesdays: Prayer - noon; 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 - Children's choir and handbells; 5:30 - Supper; 6 - Adult Handbells; 6:15 - children, youth, & adults studies; 7:15 - Adult choir

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

Thurs:12:30 - Women's Bible Study (nursery)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

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

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

RN'S AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER. Full, Part-time and PRN positions available for 12 hour day and

night shifts. Excellent wage scale, with shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits available after 60 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

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

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

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

5/3

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

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

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

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

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. 5/8

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. Walk to hospital. Great location between Highlands and Cashiers. Needs interior finishing...bring imagination. Motivated seller. 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

AKC REGISTERED GREAT DANE PUPPIES – Grand size and super temperment. Harlequins, Merles and Black. Taking deposits now. Ready June 2. Call Spencer Chambers at 828-200-0360. 5/10

YARD SALE

THREE-FAMILY YARD SALE – Saturday, May 12, starts 8 a.m. at 196 Cherokee Drive, Highlands. Toys, children's items, household goods, linens, books, bikes, sporting goods, tools.

THE HIGHLANDS PLAYHOUSE YARD SALE – Friday & Saturday, May 25 & May 26 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

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. 864-972-8525 or cell 864-723-4101

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SERVICES

MARTHA CLEANING SERVICES – Houses, Offices, Churches. Call 828-369-8675 or 828-713-8264.

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 Cham-

• CLASSIFIEDS •

bers at 828-421-6448. www.chambers-lms.com 5/8

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

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

D.P. PAINTING & PRESSURE WASHING – Interior and exterior paint-

ing. Quality Work. References. In business since 1984. Dennis Perkins. 526-3542 or 371-2277.

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

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

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washing, painting, lawn service, small electrical, floors, carpet cleaning, house cleaning! No job too small. 30 yrs. exp. Call David at 828-369-5886 or 828-347-5051.

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HIGHLANDS SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

5th Six Weeks 2006-2007

4th – D. West

"A" Alli Bolt
"A" Ann Marie Crowe
"A" April Moss
"A" Katie Ingram
"A" Philip Murphy
"A" Valarie Billingsley
"A" Veronica Garcia
"A" Kenan Lewis
"AB" Andrew Figel
"AB" Desiray Schmitt
"AB" Grace Brassard
"AB" Jessica Tilson
"AB" Josh Wolfrey
"AB" Kassie Vinson
"AB" Jeremy Robinson

"AB" Clayton Lassiter
"AB" Sarah Power
"AB" Samuel Wheeler

9th Grade

"A" Amanda Bruce
"A" Ashley Dickey
"A" Brice Jenkins
"A" Shelby Johnson
"A" Kate Marie Parks
"AB" Katie Durham
"AB" Will Mathiowdis
"AB" Beverly Nix

10th Grade

"A" Alex Hedden
"A" Casey Jenkins
"AB" Andrew Billingsley
"AB" Caden Brown
"AB" Will Edwards
"AB" Carolyn Hornsby
"AB" Luke McClellan
"AB" Matt McClellan
"AB" Michael Nix
"AB" Zach Raborn
"AB" Griselda Sanchez-Velasco

5th – T. Hedden

"A" Ellie Cate Beavers
"A" Emily Shuler
"A" Ryan Vinson
"AB" Carli Calloway
"AB" Emily Gabbard
"AB" Sydney Harris
"AB" Jerry Reed
"AB" Nadya Rogers
"AB" Tatiana Schmitt

6th – S. Mayer

"A" Will Araujo
"A" Rebecca Johnson
"AB" Cheyenne Fleszar
"AB" Corbin Hakwins
"AB" Tyler Owens
"AB" Skylar Wagner

11th Grade

"A" Kyle Lassiter
"A" Katie Pierce
"A" Greg Porter
"A" Sally Wheeler
"AB" Kaylie Buras
"AB" Jessica Dryman
"AB" Michael Grabe
"AB" Jake Heffington
"AB" Taylor Stinson

6th – G. Borino

"AB" Kaycee Carver
"AB" Dax Lloyd

7th – E. Woods

"A" Isaac Beavers
"A" Cai Roman
"AB" Tim Fogle
"AB" Cody St. Germain

12th Grade

"A" Sara Bates
"A" Brittany Dryman
"A" Lucy Herz
"A" Chase Jenkins
"A" Sara Vanderbilt
"A" Allison Winn
"AB" Amanda Chambers
"AB" Adam Chandler
"AB" Lara Gibson
"AB" Darin Keener
"AB" Nick Kerhoulas
"AB" James Miller
"AB" Pamela Potts
"AB" Angela Sanchez
"AB" Becca Wyatt

7th – S. Smathers

"A" Kaitlin Lewis
"A" Kim Machuca
"A" Emily Murphy
"A" Danielle Shomper
"AB" Copeland Hardin

8th – S. Massey

"A" Marlee McCall
"AB" Amy Fogle

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TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

May 7-11

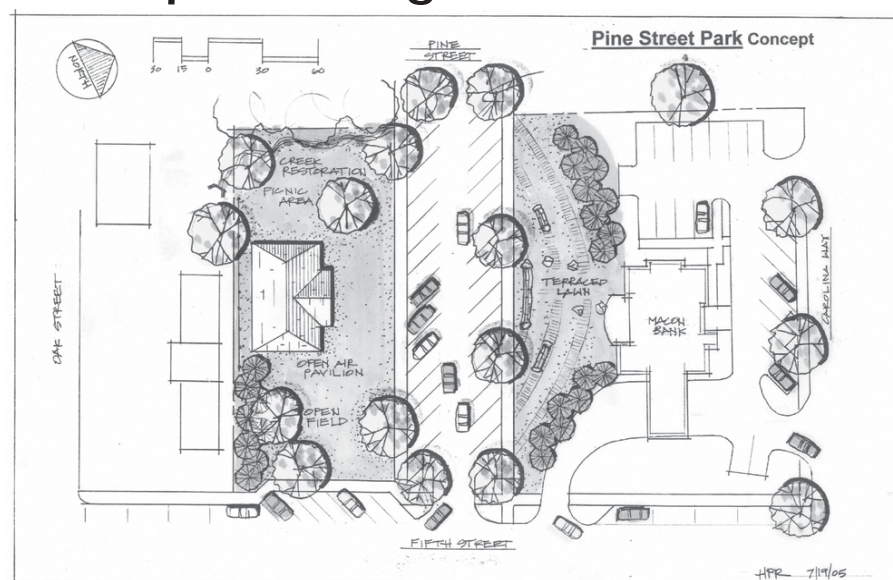
Thank you Highlands
School Teachers and Staff



We appreciate your
Commitment, Dedication,
and Loyalty to the
education of our
Children!

Highlands Eastern Star
Chapter #284

Public opinion sought for Pine Street Park



Come share your ideas for the design and use of the new Pine Street Park at 5th & Pine streets. Two public meetings will be held at the Highlands Community Center, May 7 and June 7 at 5:30 p.m. to gather suggestions from the community about what kind of activities they would like to see happen at the park. Everyone is welcome to come share their ideas with members of the Pine Street Park Committee.

... BRUGGER from pg 10

coup in Thailand, massive corruption in Africa and a host of more subtle reversals.

"The percentage of countries designated as free has failed to increase for nearly a decade and suggests that these trends may be contributing to a developing freedom stagnation, writes Freedom House director of research Arch Puddington in an essay released with the rankings.

"Bush's arrogance has turned people off the idea of democracy," says Larry Diamond, co-editor of the Journal of Democracy. But he goes on: "There's a lot more to it than that. We need to face up to the fact that in many developing countries democracy is not working very well." Diamond points to several countries where elections have been followed by governmental paralysis, corruption and ethnic warfare.

I found this quote by Mahatma Gandhi on the calendar on my wall: "The spirit of democracy cannot be imposed from without. It has to come from within."

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Phone: 828-526-3719



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Derek Taylor

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Highlands
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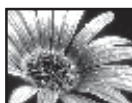
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UPCOMING EVENTS

On-going

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

First Mondays

• Be more informed and participate in your hospital by joining the Auxiliary of the Highlands/Cashiers Hospital! The auxiliary does many things to benefit the Hospital and the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center such as providing teaching tools and scholarships and having programs for residents of the Living Center. The beautiful wildflower quilt, which is raffled at the Community Center in October, is made by Auxiliary members and friends. Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at the hospital. New members and visitors are always welcomed, so mark your calendar for May 7th and join in the activities and learn more about "your" hospital.

Every Monday

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

Every Tuesday

• For eight weeks on Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m. in

the First Presbyterian Church Chapel "Companions in Christ." This study is an exploration of the forgiven and forgiving life written by Marjorie Thompson. Books are \$12 and will be available in the church office. Call 526-3175 for more information.

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

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

Every Wednesday

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

Every Third Wednesday

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

Friday, May 4

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

Friday & Saturday, May 4 & 5

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

Saturday, May 5

• Highlands Rotary Club's Monte Carlo Night, at the Highlands Community Center next to the ball park on the Cashiers Road. Chips and luck begin flying at 5:30 p.m. and tickets are \$50 per person.

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

• Healthy Carolinians of Macon County has scheduled its fourth annual golf tournament on Saturday at Mill Creek Country Club in Franklin, NC. Shotgun Start is 9 a.m. Registration Fee to play in the tournament is \$75 per player, or \$150 for a team. Registration includes green fee, cart fee, and lunch buffet. Proceeds from the tournament will support Healthy Carolinians of Macon County activities. The golf format will be captain's choice, scramble. Prizes will be awarded for closest to the pin and longest drive. A cash prize of \$5,000 will be given for a hole-in-one on hole #6. Any person or organization wanting to sponsor the golf tournament, or would like to register a team can call Rhonda Blanton at 828-349-2425.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a

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

Sunday, May 6

• The Right Reverend Alex D. Dickson, retired Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee, will preach and celebrate Holy Communion at Christ Anglican Church's 11 a.m. Sunday worship service in its new location at the Highlands Community Center adjacent to the baseball field. Visitors and friends are welcome!

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

Monday-Friday, May 7 - May 11

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

Monday, May 7

• Come share your ideas for the design of the new Pine Street Park at a public meetings being held to gather suggestions from the community about what kind of activities it would like to see happen at the park, which is located on the corner of Fifth and Pine Streets. The public meeting will be held at the Highlands Community Center (next to the ball field on the Cashiers Rd.) at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come share ideas with members of the Pine Street Park Committee.

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

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

Tuesday, May 8

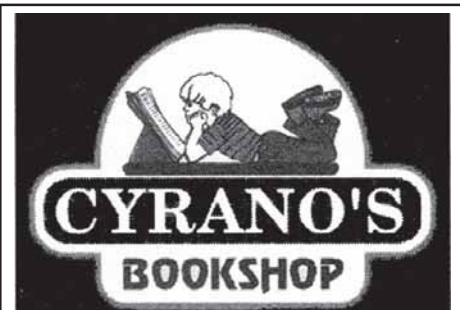
• Business After Hours at ...on the Verandah. Sponsored by OTV and Southern Hands to celebrate Spring and Southern Hands' 20th Year in Highlands. Free Admission. Bring a non-perishable item for The Food Pantry. Food, Wine, Music - featuring Thea & the Green Man, Drawings & Certificates. R.S.V.P the Chamber of Commerce 526-5841

Thursday-Sunday May 10 - May 13

• HCP's 'Enchanted April' is at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. Opening Night reception, Thursday night is being catered by Wolfgang's On Main. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees begin at 2:30 p.m. Call: 526-8084 for reservations. "Enchanted April," a romantic comedy set in England and Italy in 1922. For ticket information and reservations call 828-526-8084. The production is sponsored in part by "The Galleries," Summit One Gallery and Drake's Diamond Gallery. The box office opens for season subscribers on May 3 and for the public on May 5.

Saturday, May 12

• See EVENTS page 22



390 Main Street • 526-5488

Upcoming Book Signings

May 17

5-7 p.m.

Marisha Pessl

"Special Topic in Calmth Physics"

Picked as one of the top 10 books in 2006 by

the *New Yorker* magazine

May 18

1-3 p.m.

Rob Neufield

"A Popular History of Western North

Carolina - Mountains, Heroes &

Hootniggers

June 2

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Toni Meyers

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

2-4 p.m.

James Costa

"The Other Insect Societies"

& Brad Sanders

"Guide to Williman Bartram's Travels."

1-3 p.m.

Barbara Brown Taylor

"Leaving Church"

June 16

5-7 p.m.

Natalie Dupree

"Shrimp and Grits"

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

5-7 p.m.

Jack Bass

"Strom"

June 23

Bill Alexander

"Biltmore Nursery:

A Botanical Legacy"

June 30

1-3 p.m.

Don Brown

"Treason"

5-7 p.m.

Gayden Metcalfe

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

July 7

1-3 p.m.

Charles Martin

"Chasing Fireflies"

July 14

1-3 p.m.

Elise Weston

"The Coastwatcher"

July 20

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

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

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

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to moderate hike to 80-foot high Kings Creek Falls and Spoonauger Falls. The elevation change is moderate. Meet at Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10 a.m. Drive 30 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leaders, Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079.

Monday, May 14

- Remind MC Commissioners that Highlands is a big part of Macon County. Attend the MC Commissioner meeting, 6 p.m. in the boardroom of the courthouse in Franklin.

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

Thursday, May 17

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

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

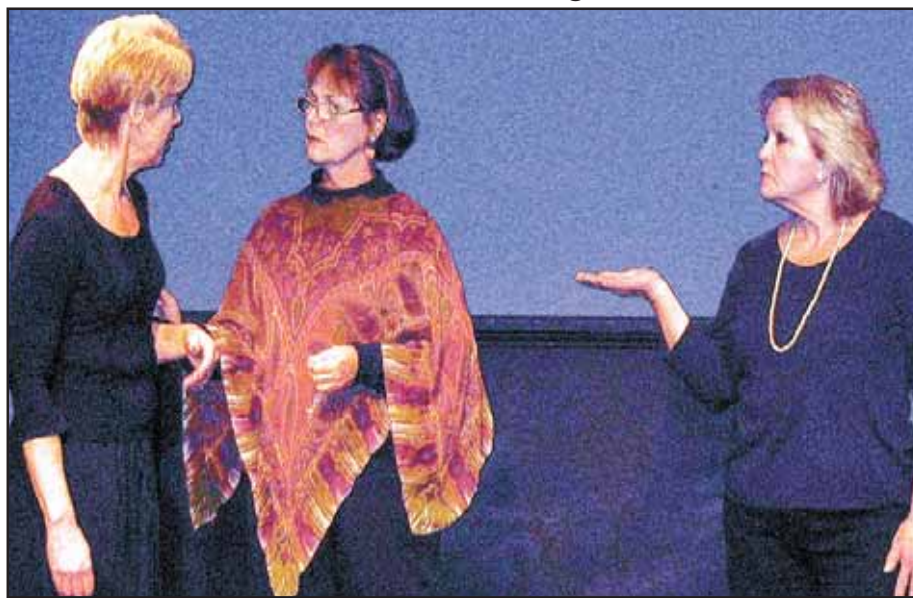
Friday, May 18

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

Saturday, May 19

- If you're from anywhere around this area when you hear the word "Dance" you think Hurricane Creek Band. So start thinking now about coming to the 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. These dances are very popular, so make your reservations early. 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.

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



Sandie Trevathan, Lee Lyons and Bonnie Earman as sisters reuniting for their grandmother's funeral. The Instant Theater presents the The Highlands Community Players production of "Parallel Lives," by Kathy Najimy and Mo Gaffney, directed by Mary Adair Leslie Friday & Saturday, May 4 & 5, at 8 p.m., The Instant Theater presents The Highlands Community Players production of Parallel Lives. Tackling such subjects as religion, death, diversity and dating the play is for adult audiences as it contain mature language and adult content. Call the Instant Theatre Box Office to reserve tickets at 342-9197.

- 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.

Sunday, May 20

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.5 mile hike with very little elevation change at the Highlands biological station. In Franklin, meet at the Bi-Lo center at 2 p.m. Drive 50 miles round trip. If coming from Highlands or Cashiers, call leader for alternate meeting place. Reservations are required. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820.

Thursday, May 24

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

Friday & Saturday, May 25 & May 26

- The Highlands Playhouse is having a yard sale and would appreciate any 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.

Saturday, May 26

- Thea performs at the Instant Theater featuring selections from her new CD "My Mother's Garden," 8 p.m.

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

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

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

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4.5 mile hike (with car shuttle) from the Fish Hatchery to Burrell's Ford (along Chattooga River). Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. or the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at CWB at 10 a.m. (return 4-5 PM); R/T Drive Length: 30-40 miles. Bring a lunch, a drink, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader Virginia Talbot, 526-4904.

Monday, May 28

- Weigh Down Workshop Information Seminar 6 p.m. at the home of Sarah Chambers on 2199 Flat Mountain Road. Call 200-0366 for directions. Learn to lose extra weight by following God's perfect will regarding food.

Thursday, May 31

- Weigh Down Workshop Information Seminar 6 p.m. at the home of Sarah Chambers on 2199 Flat Mountain Road. Call 200-0366 for directions. Learn to lose extra weight by following God's perfect will regarding food.

Saturday, June 2

- Land Trust Day is a special day when businesses who partner with Land Trusts donate a percentage of their sales to the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust. In exchange the Land Trust promotes each business. For more information, call Julie Schott with the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust at 526-9936 ext. 254.

- Join the Nantahala Hiking Club and the Konnarock Crew for lunch and work on a 6-mile section of the Appalachian Trail in celebration of National Trails Day. Meet in front of the Nantahala Outdoor Center store in Wesser at 9 a.m., returning by 5 p.m. Call Bill Van Horn, 369-1983, to make reservations by 11 a.m. May 30.

June 6 - July 25

- Weigh-Down Workshop at Highlands United Methodist Church. Lose your extra weight permanently by following God's perfect will regarding food. The 8-week course costs \$125 for the materials. Classes are 6:15 p.m. Wednesday evenings. Call Sarah Chambers at 200-0366 for more information.

Thursday, June 7

- Come share your ideas for the design of the new Pine Street Park at a public meeting held to gather suggestions from the community about what kind of activities it would like to see happen at the park, which is located on the corner of Fifth and Pine Streets. The public meeting is being held at the Highlands Community Center (next to the ball field, on the Cashiers Rd.) at 5:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to come share ideas with members of the Pine Street Park Committee.

Saturday, June 9

- The Highlands Historical Society will hold an Open House from 4-6 p.m. at the Highlands Historic Village located adjacent to the Civic Center on Highway 64 East. Everyone is invited to enjoy the Village, refreshments, and twin dulcimer music by

Ruby Cinemas

Hwy. 441, Franklin

524-2076

May 4-10

SPIDER-MAN 3 rated PG-13

Fri: (4:30), 7, 9:30

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

Mon – Thurs: (4:30), 7

FRACTURE rated R

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

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

Mon – Thurs: (4:20), 7:10

NEXT rated PG-13

Fri: (4:15), 7:05, 9:15

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

Mon – Thurs: (4:15), 7:05

AMAZING GRACE rated PG

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

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

Mon – Thurs: (4:10), 7

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 17

We have default settings about how we understand God. We have default settings about how we understand and relate to other people. Most of these default settings we learn as children from parents, teachers, religion, our community and world. If a default setting was "never talk to strangers", chances are that message is still somewhere in the back of your mind when you are trying to be friendly to a newcomer. In the book of Acts, when the Holy Spirit rests upon the apostles, filling their locked room where they huddled in fear and confusion, their lives would never be the same. From that moment forward, their default settings would be challenged. God would ask them to touch sinners, to heal broken people, to reach out to those that institutional religion had cast out long ago. The Holy Spirit would challenge their default settings about race and nation and creed, asking them to go and violate their pre-set understandings of faith and life. And because the early apostles allowed the love of Jesus to challenge their default settings, the entire world was given the opportunity to be included in the family of God.

Where is God challenging your default settings? As a child, I got on a bus in grade school in Greensboro, NC, and was bussed across the city past every possible elementary school closest to my home, to Mt. Zion Elementary, a school in a crime infested neighborhood, with a tall chain link fence with barbed wire. This was the city's efforts to integrate Greensboro City Schools. Although it wasn't explicitly said, it was obvious that the

white community felt like all of this change was wrong and it was black people's fault. At Mt. Zion I experienced what it felt like to be a minority, one of about 30 percent white people. It was there I understood racism for the first time from another angle. It was okay the way we were raised to know that there were black people in this world, and that was just fine, as long as we didn't have to live beside them, go to church with them, or go to school with them. And if we did, they went from being just a group of people you tolerated to being downright meddlesome. My mom and dad considered the idea of pulling us out of public school. But my father, a military service man, a born again Christian, believed that keeping us in that school would teach us valuable lessons of what it meant to truly be in community with people who were different from us. For my daddy, who was raised in a home in rural Tennessee where the world was so divided between black and white, where the "N" word was used to describe every person of color, it was against his default setting.

Only later, did I realize that this was really what it meant to be like Christ. Not until seminary – when I went to school, became friends with, prayed and cried with Anthony, a man studying to be a pastor in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, did that lesson really hit home. It was the first time in my mind and heart that color didn't matter.

Where today is God's grace challenging your ideas of what life and faith are about?

• RE TRANSACTIONS •

HIGHLANDS AREA PROPERTY TRANSFERS

From April 20

Parcel Id, Grantee Name, Address, Property Description, Date, Stamps, Land Val, Build Val, Grantor Name

• Divide the revenue stamp amount by two, and multiply by 1,000 to get the sale price.

• 0511651, FONDREN, BETTY A, 2765 BRELAND RD, MATHISTON, MS, 39752, 14 UNIT 101 HIGHLANDS MANOR II, 04-20-07, \$720., \$25,000., \$318,790., AUTHIER, SARA

• 0502197, WILSON, JAMES L, PO BOX 682, HIGHLANDS, NC, 28741, 14 LOT 1A SAGEE MTN, 04-20-07, \$2., \$49,760., \$0., HEFFINGTON, MARK W

• 0502196, MERRY, FINLEY H, 2222 CUMMING RD, AUGUSTA, GA, 30904, 14 LOT 1 SAGEE MTN, 04-20-07, \$1260., \$768,300., \$559,040., HEFFINGTON, MARK W

• 0502429, IDT PROPERTIES LLC, P O BOX 400, HIGHLANDS, NC, 28741, 14 RD 106, 04-20-07, \$0., \$496,000., \$839,680., TAYLOR, JAMES DEREK & TAYLOR, IRINA

• 0531527, IDT PROPERTIES LLC, P O BOX 400, HIGHLANDS, NC, 28741, 05 LOT 12 THE MEADOWS, 04-20-07, \$0., \$240,000., \$66,940., TAYLOR, JAMES DEREK & TAYLOR, IRINA

• 0531534, IDT PROPERTIES LLC, P O BOX 400, HIGHLANDS, NC, 28741, 05 LOT #14 THE MEADOWS, 04-20-07, \$0., \$40,800., \$0.00, TAYLOR, JAMES DEREK & TAYLOR, IRINA

• 0531530, IDT PROPERTIES LLC, P O BOX 400, HIGHLANDS, NC, 28741, 05 ON HWY 64 EAST, 04-20-07, \$0.00, \$105,980., \$0., TAYLOR, JAMES DEREK & TAYLOR, IRINA

• 0531528, IDT PROPERTIES LLC, P O BOX 400, HIGHLANDS, NC, 28741, 05 LOT 13 THE MEADOWS, 04-20-07, \$0., \$40,800., \$436,530., TAYLOR, JAMES DEREK & TAYLOR, IRINA

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of April 27-30. Only the names of persons arrested or public officials have been used.

April 27

- At 7:30 a.m., officers responded to a call of a motorist hitting a mailbox on Paul Walden Way.
- At 11:15 a.m., officers responded to a call of damage to a motorcycle at a residence on Big Bear Pen.
- At 11:30 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 50 mph in a 35 zone on N.C. 28 south.

April 28

- At 8:35 a.m., a motorist on N.C. 106 and Dog Mountain was cited for speeding 54 mph in a 35 zone.
- At 8:45 a.m., a motorist on U.S. 64 west and Webbmont was cited for speeding 51 mph in a 35 zone.

April 30

- At 8:21 a.m., a motorist on U.S. 64 west was cited for having false information on his license.
- At 8:30 a.m., a motorist was cited for driving at an unsafe speed and crashing into a building on U.S. 64 east and Memorial Park.
- At 8:48 a.m., a motorist at U.S. 64 west and Webbmont was cited for speeding 53 mph in a 35 zone.
- At 10:45 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 53 mph in a 35 zone at U.S. 64 west and Hickory Hill.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the weeks of April 25-May 1

April 25

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

April 29

- The dept. responded to an alarm at Highlands Country Club. It was unfounded.

April 30

- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers to extinguish a brush fire.

- The dept. responded to an accident at Memorial Park and U.S. 64 east where a motorist crashed into one of the Twigs buildings.

May 1

- The dept. responded to an hit and run accident with minor injuries on N.C. 28 south.

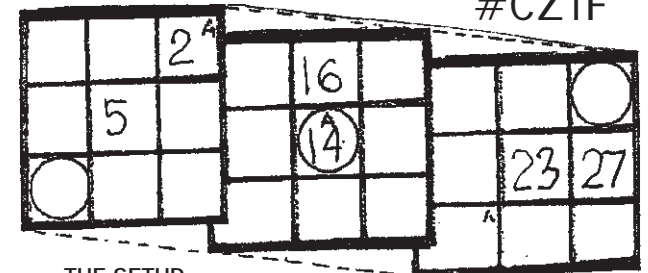
... MULLEN from page 2

comes from a very dedicate, highly experienced and hard working Board of Trustees who want the best for our area in both health and medical care. The major changes that have been made recently are getting results. Nothing is wrong with our hospital that could not be corrected with a general surgeon on staff and this will happen soon. I hope everyone will continue to support the very fine hospital which we have developed over the past fifty years.

There was considerable discussion over zoning in the Horse Cove and Clear Creek section of our Extraterritorial Jurisdiction area at the last Planning Board meeting. In a split vote the board rejected recommending any zoning in these areas at the present time. The reason for ETJ is for the protection of the community as a whole from one or two individuals who may want to do something totally inappropriate for the area — such as a high-rise condominium or even a race track of some kind. Community rights supercede individual rights in this case and the community needs to be protected from that rare individual who is on the edge of intelligent development. The Board of Commissioners may take up this issue again soon. Rest assured that the board is dedicated to the present and future of the Highlands area and we will make our decisions to that end.

PseudoCube[®]

#CZ1F



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.

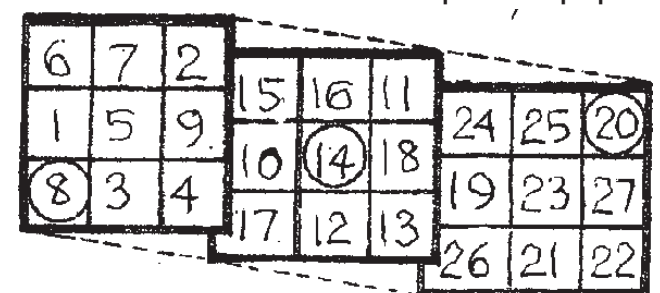
THE CHALLENGE:

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 BZ1A in the April 26 paper



Upscale Lodging, Fine Dining, Unique Shops & Best Realtors

Waterfall Map & Day Trips

Waterfalls: Cullasaja Falls, Bust Your Butt Falls, Dry Falls, Chinquapin, Bridal Veil, Sliding Rock, Chattooga Iron Bridge.

Towns & Locations: Lake Glennville, Cashiers, Whiteside, Sapphire Valley, Silver Run, Glen Falls, Highlands, Chattooga Trail, Chattooga Iron Bridge.

Landmarks & Points of Interest: The Copper Cellar @ Four Sisters, Highlands Cove Golf & Peregrins, HOSPITAL, High Country Cafe, The Farm, BP Gas, Dillard 14 Miles < Hwy 106, BP Gas, Home Place Blinds, Rand Soaring.

Roads: Hwy 107n, Hwy 64e, Hwy 64, Hwy 106, Hwy 28s, Hwy 107s.

Trails: Whiteside Trail, Chattooga Trail.

Other: Marina, The Copper Cellar @ Four Sisters, BP Gas, Highlands 10 Miles, Whiteside < Cove Rd., Chattooga Trail.

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ant Theatre
ALLEL LIVES
y 4th & 5th

Instant Theatre
PARALLEL LIVES
May 4th & 5th

FOREMAN

Whole Health Market

Civic Center

Pool & Tennis

CHESTNUT ST.

Performing Arts Center

Community Players

LAUREL ST.

SHEPHERD RD.

Madison's Wine Spectator

**Madison's
Wine Spectator**

5T) **Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals**

Episcopal

FALLS ON MAIN
Cabin Casuals
Century 21
Creative Concepts

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828-526-3320

DINING	Shopping	Real Estate
1 Cyprus	1 Acorns	1 Century 21
2 Log Cabin	2 AnnaWear	2 Chambers
3 Madison's	3 Bear Mt. Outfit.	3 Country Club
4 Main St. Inn	4 Dry Sink	4 Meadows Mtn.
5 On Verandah	5 Raspberry Fizz	5 Schiffli Realty
6 Paoletti	6 Silver Eagle	Galleries
7 Pescado's	7 Stone Lantern	1 Mirror Lake
8 SportsPage	8 Village Kids	2 Shiraz Rugs
9 Wolfgang's	9 Wholesale Down	3 Tino Gallery

DINING

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