

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 5, Number 22

PDF Version – www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, May 31, 2007

On-going

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

• Pilates classes with Sandie Trevathan on Level 1 of the Jane Woodruff Clinic, Mon. and Wed. at 4 p.m. \$10 per class.

• At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1F1T.

Saturdays

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

Every Wednesday

• Wednesday Noon Prayers noon at First Presbyterian Church.

Thursday, May 31

• Zahner Lecture series at the Nature Center at 7 p.m. This week: Thomas Rain Crowe "My Life in the Appalachian Woods: A Modern Day Walden."

Saturday, June 2

• The Appalachian High Folk Concert Series at Instant Theater Co. with Cosy Sheridan. Tickets are \$25 and reservations are strongly suggested. Call 828-342-9197.

• At Cyprus Restaurant, Zorki playing acoustical favorites at 9:30 p.m. \$10 cover.

• Three booksignings at Cyrano's Book Shop on Main Street. "I Heard It On the Mountain (Think I'll Tell It)" by Toni Myers from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; James T. Costa's "The Other Insect Societies" and Brad Sanders's "Guide to William Bartram's Travels: Following the Trail of America's First Great Naturalist" from 2:30-4:30 p.m.

• On Land Trust Day, eco-minded businesses in Highlands will show their support for the conservation efforts of Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust by donating a percentage of their sales on this day.

Sunday, June 3

• MountainTop Relay For Life Kick-Off Party at Drake's Diamond Gallery from 2:30-5:30 p.m.

• CLE's Gala Opening Concert and Preview Party to introduce this year's presenters at PAC featuring The Smoky Mountain Brass Band at 3 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres served.

Wednesday, June 6

• At CLE, "Darwin's The Origin of Species" with James Costa of the Highlands Biological Station, at the Performing Arts Center, from 10 a.m. to noon. \$20 for members, \$30 for nonmembers. Call 526-8811.

Town budget reflects growing needs

At this preliminary review stage, mandated by the state to take place by June 1 of each year, the town's 2007-2008 budget stands somewhere between \$10-\$12 million. After a final work session set for June 14, the budget will be adopted June 27.

At the May 30 special called

Town Board meeting, Town Administrator and Treasurer Richard Betz presented the budget message.

The most significant effect on the town's revenues was the Macon County revaluation. The tax base inside the town increased from \$1.110 billion to \$1.735 bil-

lion – at 56% increase. Valuation for the Highlands Fire District increased from \$2.5 billion to \$3.8 billion – a 53% increase.

Both state sales tax and obviously ad valorem property tax revenues were healthy this year and are projected to exceed budgeted

• See BUDGET page 27

Booster Club encourages 'HS Pride'



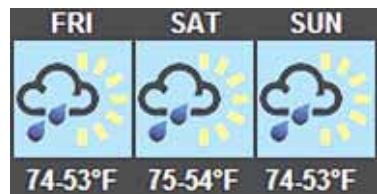
As part of this year's "Highlander Pride – Get It! theme," the Highlands School Booster Club contributed \$100 toward school jackets for the high school athletes. To be eligible for a jacket, athletes had to have lettered twice or participated in a sport for two or more years. "It's been a long time since Highlands School teams have worn jackets like they do in other schools, so we thought we'd help the kids get back that pride through a jacket," said Booster Club President Tina Rogers. The jackets cost \$145 – students contributed \$45. Forty athletes in grades 9-12 were eligible for the jackets, more than half participated in the offer. At the May 22 Athletic Banquet Alec Schmitt, Jason Aspinwall, Nick Kerhoulas, Kelli Baer, Toni Schmitt, Allison Winn, Katelyn Bryson, Vicky Smith, Kaylie Buras, Adam Hedden, Danielle Puchaez, Greg Porter, Andrew Watson, Billy Ray Converse, Jake Heffington, J.T. Schandolph, Hunter Leffler, Ezra Herz, Danielle Reese, Luke McClellan, Katie Marie Parks, and Brie Schmitt received their jackets.

Photo by Barbie Aspinwall

HS asst. principal named principal of E. Franklin

Several job moves were approved immediately following the closed executive session at the May 29 Macon County School Board meeting.

Weekend Weather:



All appointees will assume their new responsibilities on July 1, 2007.

Terry Bradley has been named principal at East Franklin Elementary School. Bradley currently serves as assistant principal at Highlands School. He served in that capacity for the 2006-2007 school year. He will assume his new responsibilities on July 1, 2007.

Superintendent Dan Brigman

said no one has been appointed in his place yet.

"We will be setting up interviews for that and other positions currently open among our administrative ranks very soon," he said.

Bradley is married with two children. He has a bachelors in art degree in physical education from the University of South Carolina and a masters in education administration and supervision. He

• See PRINCIPAL page 27

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Recent accident raises concern about traffic

A flurry of vehicular and pedestrian traffic this past Memorial Day weekend, has brought attention to Highlands' busy Main Street.

On May 26 at 2 p.m., a motorist hit a stroller being pushed by pedestrians across the Third and Main streets crosswalk. Though no one was seriously injured and the youngsters were released from Highlands-Cashiers

• See ACCIDENT page 19

RE agents have until June 8 to adjust signs

Many area realtors may be affected in coming weeks by enforcement of regulations for real estate signs.

The Town's Zoning Ordinance requires that real estate signs be located no closer than 10 feet from the pavement of the road, and that they actually be located on the property they advertise.

In a survey of signs last week, new Code Enforcement Officer Josh Ward noted several violations. "We're not sure if new real estate agents are aware of the regulations," Ward said, "So we wanted to give them time to comply with the ordinance."

Ward said that a deadline of June 8 has been set for compliance for such signs. After that date, they will be removed and taken to the Town Hall.

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

Height ordinance is in jeopardy

By Bob Wright

Friends, our Macon County Commissioners have scheduled the public hearing for the building height ordinance (re: the high rise moratorium) for Monday, June 18 at 5 p.m., not the customary 6 p.m. time in the Macon County Courthouse Board of Commissioners Board Room. Please reserve this time and date.

We need a large turnout of speakers at the public session. Although an ordinance has been drafted to meet the apparent concerns of our citizens who went to the County Commissioners meeting in November and December, the draft ordinance is deficient, and can still be changed if public pressure is demonstrated to the County Commissioners. Your voice must be heard as before; just showing up is not enough. Even if you only speak for a very short time, these things do count.

We won the building height moratorium by speaking out. Now, let's be sure that we do not lose the battle for an effective ordinance.

What is wrong with the proposed ordinance?

The measurement method specified in the draft ordinance only limits the height of a structure above the "Top of the Foundation". However, the foundation height itself has no limit; therefore, in some cases the building will be allowed to significantly exceed 48 feet or 4 stories above the ground.

By contrast and comparison, the N.C. Ridge Law includes the following provision that the Macon County ordinance does not; "...provided, however, that where such foundation measured from the natural finished grade exceeds 3 feet, then such measurement in excess of 3 feet shall be included in the (ed. height) limitation described herein."

If this or a similar provision is incorporated into the Macon County ordinance it will ensure that any building (regardless of the building site & slope) will be limited. Although not the 3 story limit the citizens requested in November, this would then be an effective ordinance of all of the county.

Background:

From the very beginning last November, Commissioner Bob Simpson has worked to subtly weaken the height limit while appearing to be in support of the public outcry over the proposed 10-story condominium on U.S. 64 near the Com-

•See FORUM page 12

• LETTERS •



Charles Bryson and Wayne Gamble with their crew.



Charlie Bryson on leave in Endinburgh, Scotland

Searching for fellow crew member

Dear Editor,

I am searching for one of the Air Force crew I flew with in a B-24 in 1944 from England. The man would be age 80+ now. His name was Charles Bryson from Cashiers, N.C. Perhaps some of your readers would know if he is still alive. In the crew picture he is on second row on the right (without a cap). The other picture was taken on leave in Edinburgh, Scotland. Charles is between the two women. We flew 30 missions from May to August in 1944. We were

based at Horsham Saint Faith field at Norwich, England. If anyone knows where he is, please contact me. Thanks for your help.

Wayne Gamble
432 Scofield Road,
Charlotte, NC 28209,
phone: 704-525-7843
wgamble@carolina.rr.com.

•See LETTERS page 3

• BIRTH •



Carson Lee Keener

Christian and Caleb Keener are proud to announce the birth of their brother, Carson Lee Keener. He was born on Wednesday, April 4th at 8:50 p.m. in Zurich, Switzerland. He weighed 9 lbs, 10 oz. and was 21 inches long.

Michael and Stephanie Keener are the proud parents. Paternal grandparents are Mary Keener and the late Jamie Keener of Highlands. Maternal grandparents are Mary Jane Campbell and the late Robert D. Campbell of Jackson, MS.

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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• WEDDING •

Potts-Fielding wed



Brittany Potts and Eric Fielding were united in marriage in a garden ceremony at the bride's home on Saturday, May 26 at 2 p.m. Pastor Kim Ingram of the Highlands United Methodist Church officiated. Brittany is the daughter of Karin and Terry Potts of Highlands. Eric is the son of Guy and Marjorie Fielding and Janet and Thomas Cummings, of Clayton, Ga. A reception followed at the Highlands Fall Country Club. Both are graduates of Highlands School, class of 2004.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

• OBITUARY •

Richard "Dick" Earl Strain

Richard "Dick" Earl Strain, age 82, died peacefully in his sleep, on May 24, 2007 after a lengthy illness. Born in Alliance, Ohio on December 20, 1924, the son of the late Eugene and Charlotte Stanley Strain, he has been a Highlands resident since 1975. He was a WWII Veteran of the Army Air Corps, serving as a lieutenant. He was predeceased in 1986 by his wife of 39 years, Barbara Jane Cool Strain.

For many years he owned the original Bird Barn and was famous for his home-made chocolates. He was an avid gardener. He enjoyed playing cards, loved his cats, his friends and his family. His kind, generous nature and his community spirit have helped and inspired many people over the years. Dick was a much loved member of the First Presbyterian Church in Highlands where he served as an elder and sang in the choir for over 30 years. He was a past member of the Lions, Moose and Elks clubs and was a member of the American Legion. He will be missed by many. He is survived by three daughters, Tracey Strain and Cynthia Strain of Highlands, NC and Deborah Harp of Loveland, OH as well as many "adopted" daughters; two grandchildren, Matthew and Kelli Harp; two great-grandchildren, Lilly and Ava Harp.

Memorial services were held Tuesday, May 29 at 4 p.m. at Highlands Presbyterian Church with Rev. Hunter Coleman and Rev. Don Mullen officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Highlands Community Child Development Center, PO Box 546, Highlands, NC 28741.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. Online condolences can be made by visiting www.bryantfuneralhomes.com or www.MeM.com.

... LETTERS continued from page 2

Highlands Newspaper provides the best local news coverage

Dear Editor,

First I want congratulate you on your newspaper. You have made Highlands' Newspaper into a first-rate source of information. I really enjoy reading it; in fact, I believe you provide the best local news coverage available in Highlands. And as Pat Griffen said in her letter in the May 24 issue, "Don't ever lose Fred Woolridge" he is a jewel! I don't care for Dr. Salzarulo, but like Fox News you're being fair and balanced. Keep up the good work.

Walter Stumpff
Highlands

• See LETTERS page 11

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Wonderful well maintained 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo in the city limits. Community swimming pool, mountain view, very private location. Recent upgrades have been made like central heat and AC, hardwood floors, fresh interior paint, new kitchen countertops, state of art washer and dryer. \$320,000



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Best of the bunch! Sitting at the very top of Highlands Cove offering huge views, great privacy, audio and video upgrades! Granite throughout kitchen and baths, European styled vessel sink in powder room, deck with fireplace. One car carport with a storage room. Golfing & dining on site. \$1,100,000



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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Hide the women and children 'cause here we come!

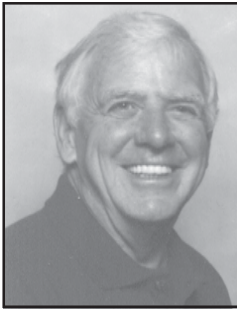
Not only does our entire back yard smell like a funeral home, but the house as well. Nobody actually died here, except for maybe a few lizards not working for GEICO. Our gardenia bush is in full bloom so we have fresh cut flowers in the house every day. Not only that, the drone from hundreds of air conditioners fills the neighborhood and no one is walking outside anymore. I just looked at my electric meter and it's spinning off the wall. These are the signals that it is time for us to clear out of Palm Beach.

Leaving South Florida is getting easier and easier for me. I know a lot of Highlanders complain about the leadership in our town and hate the expansion, but if they could see what's going on down here, they would be more appreciative of what they have. After what I have seen this winter, I am ready to arrive in town, hug every commissioner and kiss Father Tien on the lips....well, maybe on the cheek so he doesn't slug me.

This past winter, there were more public officials in the slammer or about to go to the slammer than any Florida county. The tourism director was caught inappropriately spending loads of bed tax money and they still haven't figured out where all the money went. Commissioner after commissioner has taken a fall, accused of taking bribes from big shot developers and a host of other scoundrel type shenanigans. Money is flowing under the table like never before. The probe continues and most Palm Beach County politicians not in jail are now hiding in their fox holes....or should I say rat holes.

There's more! Wouldn't you think by now Palm Beach County would have the voting thing down pat, considering they continuously make a national embarrassment of themselves every single time they vote? Nope, they've done it again. Champagne bottles were only half empty during a recent election celebration when the winners found they were the losers because of a "voting glitch." More circus music, please, only louder this time.

While politicians are shoving money into their pockets, the Catholic Church, for reasons that go far, far be-



Fred Wooldridge

**Feedback
is encouraged!
email:**

askfredanything@aol.com

yond my intellect, evidently decided to ship every scoundrel priest in the country to Palm Beach County, at least it seems that way. I guess because the people are so liberal-thinking down there, it is expected they will be tolerant. Hardly a month goes by without learning of another priest being caught doing something. Why they don't put them all in jail is beyond me. We have priests that put politicians to shame when it comes to stealing. At least the politicians

only steal in the six-figure range. This is tough on me because I am Catholic. They still haven't found who stole the four grand from the Sunday collection where I attend mass and I am convinced that if they did, nothing would happen. On top of that, many mothers in Palm Beach are more than just a little nervous about leaving their child alone with a priest. What a terrible indictment. Excuse me while I bite down hard on a washrag and scream....OK, I'm back.

By packing my car to the hilt and heading north to Highlands, I can forget about corruption and the anger with my church. Here, I don't have to hide the women and children. Being a Catholic in Highlands is sooooo easy and I would trust our beloved Father Tien with any of my family and I certainly don't think our commissioners are thieves. Highlands is such a great place to be. Do Highlanders really know how good they have it?

There is more than just the beauty of Highlands in summer. This place is my escape from all I detest; the corruption, the lying, the wheeling and dealing are now 713 miles away. If it wasn't for the awesome, perfect weather in winter and half my family living down there, I could care less if I ever went back, but I will.

So bring on the growth, ETJ, higher property taxes, traffic jams, Riverwalk violations, liquor bars right in our faces, construction noise, two-hour parking and everything else that's troublesome. After a strong dose of South Florida, none of that seems urgent.

P.S. - There is no truth to the rumor that Amy Patterson is hiding from me so I won't hug her.

• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

Meaningful work

I love the movie "Groundhog Day." In the film the weathercaster of a TV station, Phil is sent to Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania to report the events of Groundhog Day. He hates the assignment and is very cynical about everything and everyone. A snowstorm prevents the TV crew from returning home so Phil is condemned to spend another night in the hated little town.

When he wakes up the next morning, it slowly dawns on him that it is Groundhog Day again. He lives the same day over and over again, seemingly forever. His first reaction is to indulge—eat whatever he wants, rob a bank and buy whatever he wants, seduce women, etc. As the pleasures of the flesh get old he tries to kill himself in countless ways, but he keeps waking up on that same old day.

Eventually he becomes resigned to his fate and begins to learn — he reads books and learns to play the piano and carve ice sculptures.

Then he begins to serve: he spends his recurring day rushing from one small crisis to another all across Punxsutawney. The day he achieves total selfless service, he goes to sleep and when he awakes it is *finally* the day after Groundhog Day.

He has escaped through transformation. Many people see this as a metaphor for reincarnation. I've seen a documentary about the making of this film and the screenwriter claims he never thought about reincarnation, just thought the idea of living a day over and over again would make a good story. But after the film was released he heard from many people of various spiritual beliefs that it was very meaningful for them.

Recently I saw a Japanese film that has a similar message: "Ikiru," directed by Akira Kurosawa (1952). A bureaucrat stuck in a dead-end job (he's the head of Public Affairs in City Hall where the main job is to do nothing) finds out he has stomach cancer and only a few months to live.

His first impulse is to go out and indulge—he who had never bought himself a drink went to a bar and got drunk. There he met a writer, who, upon hearing the bureaucrat's story, took him out for an epic night on the town indulging in every desire of the flesh.

This was clearly not what the bureaucrat wanted, and he kept searching. A young woman he had worked with was full of passion for life and he kept taking her out trying to somehow get what she had.

One night she remarked that in order to keep her sanity in her boring job making toys she imagined the child who will play with each particular toy. He sees what he has been looking for: service



Katie Brugger
k-brugger@hotmail.com

through meaningful work.

As the realization washes over him a party in the next room breaks into "Happy Birthday."

The next day the bureaucrat returns to work and pulls a project out of his endless files. Women had petitioned the city government to reclaim a swampy place near their homes that was a health hazard and turn it into a park but they had been continuously re-

buffed.

As the bureaucrat proclaimed his intention to take action on this park to his astonished colleagues, the melody to "happy birthday" played in the soundtrack. This was his birthday; after a lifetime of sleepwalking he was finally alive. Ikiru means "to live" in English.

In the next few months he persevered against enormous odds and shortly before his death the park was completed.

Perhaps in the big scheme of things a small park in a Japanese city doesn't mean much. But it made a huge difference in the lives of some people. And I think this is what gives this movie its power.

I think everyone wants to make a difference in their lives. Yet we all think that we have to do something big, something worthy of the history books, for it to mean anything. So we do nothing.

But this man had no time to waste. He started where he was and took what he had and made something meaningful. That same opportunity is there for all of us right under our noses if we just looked.

That is why "Ikiru" has supplanted "Groundhog Day" as my personal favorite. The events that happened in "Groundhog Day" were far-fetched and outside anyone's personal experience so it's easy to dismiss it as an inspiring idea but impossible to implement in life.

All of us are going to die though. All of us will face what the bureaucrat faced. Did I really live my life? What did I do with my life? Did I make the world a better place?

Don Juan, the Yaqui Indian made famous in Carlos Castaneda's books, taught that in order to be truly alive we must keep our death close to us. Paradoxically, the more we deny death the less we live, but when we embrace our mortality we cherish every moment of life given to us.

At one point during the struggle to break through the bureaucratic inertia one of the bureaucrat's colleagues asked him how he avoided hating the man who was the chief obstacle to the park's completion. The bureaucrat replied, "I can't afford to hate anyone. I don't have that kind of time."

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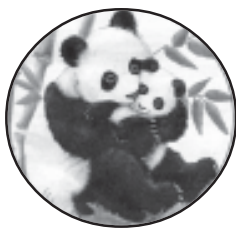
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• HIS & HERS •

Dick Strain cashes in his chips

For 300 weeks, give or take a few, I've played poker every Tuesday with the Coots. That's a group here in Highlands, organized by Dick Strain and usually gathered around his round dining room table for these “probability seminars.”

Last week, at the age of 82, Dick Strain cashed in his chips. No longer will this gentle man face us across a poker table, and relieve us of our ready cash. You can learn a great deal about a man by playing poker with him. Here's what I learned about Dick.

He was a very smart man. Anyone who occasionally puts the columns of Dr. Thomas Sowell on his refrigerator, takes his politics and social studies seriously. Mind you, we weren't in the habit of discussing the differences between Aristotle's Politics and Machiavelli's The Prince in between hands of seven-card, high-low poker. Still, we got into serious matters both local and national from time to time, and Dick was always a thoughtful participant.

Dick was a manager who came to Highlands in 1975. A few years later, he opened his own business, that's alive and well today. He wasn't a native, but he definitely was an old-timer. He loved the Lord, his church, his community and his family, and gladly served them all.

On the subject of age, here's why the poker group was referred to as the Coots. Dick was the oldest of the group. He and Harold served in WW II. Dick was in the Army Air Corps. Harold was in the Navy, and served in the Pacific.

Even the youngest of us have our aches and pains, except for Ted. He was once a professional dealer in Las Vegas. Now he's settled down, married, and works as a goldsmith in



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

his own jewelry store. He's too young to be a real Coot, but he manages the game and maintains the bank. So, we keep him while he ages.

Near the end, Dick's legs started to fail, so he got one of those scooters which he didn't like and preferred not to use. He also got an oxygen tank,

and didn't like that, either. Instead, he preferred to come to the table on his own steam, pick up his cards, put on his poker face, and defy us to know what he was holding.

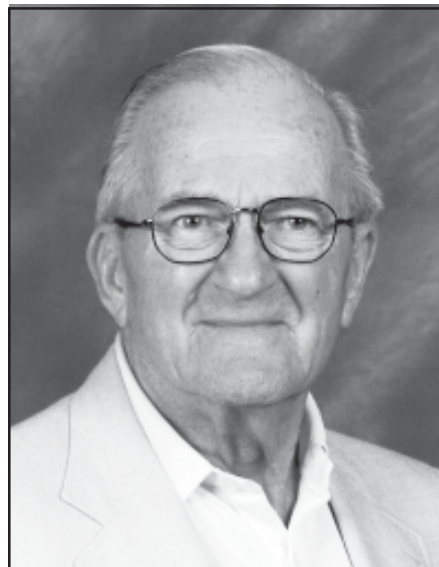
Dick was good at lurking in the bushes. He'd let other people raise, and he'd just stay in the game. Finally, on the last round he'd raise, and smile his patented smile, and wait for us to fold in fear, or stay and lose.

Sometimes he whipped us bad, but there was no ill will. Not a bit. Everywhere he went, folks naturally liked him. At the Health Tracks Program at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, they do cardio-rehabilitation and general health care. They miss Dick. All the ladies asked after him, from the silver-haired veterans to the young whippets who are the guides and trainers.

Dick's Memorial Service was this week, at the First Presbyterian Church where he'd sung in the choir for decades. He leaves behind three daughters, two grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, a whole

community that loved him, and seven Coots who have this to say, “Walk with strength, travel light and far, and may you fill your inside straights forever.”

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



Dick Strain

• FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

On Memorial Day and more

The beginning of summer in Highlands occurred this past Memorial Day weekend, and I welcome all our visitors and second home owners who have returned to our little paradise. We all look forward to a busy summer with many activities in Highlands.

This past Monday we honored all those veterans who have sacrificed their time and their lives that we may continue to be a great and free country. The freedom we so proudly have in our country means the freedom to work together so that all may benefit from the advantages of a free society, not just a privileged few. Sacrifices for the common good gives us all freedom. We are blessed in our country when we look at eighty percent of the world living in poverty and misery. We must keep that in mind as we appreciate what we have due to those sacrifices of many but always trying to work toward helping those both here and abroad who are less fortunate than we are. We must not be tempted to control these people abroad who we sometimes understand so poorly nor must we be selfish with the desire for unreasonable personal freedom to the detriment of the community.

The twelve counties of western North Carolina have been determined to be in a severe drought condition, and NC Governor Easley has directed state agencies in this area to stop nonessential water use. He is urging also state and local governments and the public to conserve water statewide. The lack of rainfall this spring is already having an impact on stream flow and ground water levels which makes it prudent to begin voluntary conservation measures in the event that the summer remains dry.

Memorial Day is typically when demand for water increases



Mayor Don Mullen

so the governor is urging voluntary limit to all non-essential uses of water. The following voluntary conservation measures have been recommended and I urge all citizens of our area to do their part. Take shorter showers, don't leave water running unnecessarily, limit car washing and hose use. Water lawns early or late and not in the heat of day to prevent evaporation.

Macon County is rated as suffering a "severe drought" condition while three other nearby counties are experiencing "extreme hydrological drought," which is the 4th of a five stage system.

Many reservoirs in the southern mountains are operating at below normal water levels. We are also very close to having a moratorium on burning trash on the Highlands plateau. I urge all citizens to proceed with extreme caution.

Last Saturday I attended the ground breaking of the new Fine Arts Center on Oak Street.

This \$9 million facility will be one of the prides of Highlands and is due to open in 2008. There will be a covered bridge entering the property off the Franklin Road, a pottery studio and kiln barn at the site of the old Crane barn along with an 18,000 square foot main art center with studios, exhibition spaces and class rooms on the almost six acres of beautiful

property. This will be a structure which brings many visitors to Highlands and will be a source of art education for all ages for our local people. We are all privileged to have this incredible art studio amongst us and congratulate both the board, the administration and the architects for the vision they have had in developing such a magnificent plan.

Photo by Jim Lewicki



Highlands Mayor Don Mullen, left, and Bascom Board Chair Bob Fisher break ground on the new fine art center. Mullen was one of many dignitaries who showed up Saturday to celebrate the facility

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• ANOTHER VIEW •

The climb



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

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The question should have been small, even inconsequential.

Choose the relatively easy hike to Sun Gate at Machu Picchu or select the more challenging climb to the top of Waynu Picchu.

Machu Picchu was the Old Mountain of ancient Incas. Wayna Picchu meant New Mountain. Our company-appointed escort had hinted that Waynu Picchu was a tougher task, but glancing around the room, I judged myself to be as fit as almost any of our party. When I asked Ernesto, our Peruvian guide, a single question, “If this was the only time in your life that you would be in this place, which hike would you choose?” I had intended only to ask only which hike was the lovelier, the more memorable, the more satisfying. His unexpected answer hit me like a sledge. “The answer would be easy for me, given my age and condition. There is no doubt that I would select Wayna Picchu. For you,” he said as he eyed me critically, “I think Sun Gate would be a better choice.”

I had asked and he had answered. Take the easy tour, old man, he had said. He had expanded his answer. One is a hike, the other is a climb, with technical portions. He had added, “I don’t think that your escort should even have mentioned the option to this group, given your age and condition.” Nothing subtle about Ernesto, our personal Inca.

It is true that Ernesto, a keen observer and experienced mountain guide, had watched me hike and struggle for two days. Then I had been weakened by a severe case of Montezuma’s revenge, but now had recovered completely. Earlier in the day I had gazed across the valley and into the clouds to see climbers at the peak of Wayna Picchu, some 1,300 nearly vertical feet above us. I realized then that a climb to the summit was possible, at least for the bold. The mountain sat behind the ruins of Machu Picchu and looked

like a loaf of French bread standing on end. Little sprinkles of hikers were barely visible at the top.

Perhaps I would be unable to join them. At dinner, I told Jim Stevens, who had already announced his intention to challenge Waynu Picchu, that Ernesto did not believe that I was capable of the climb. I said it in a louder voice than necessary, with bravado that I did not

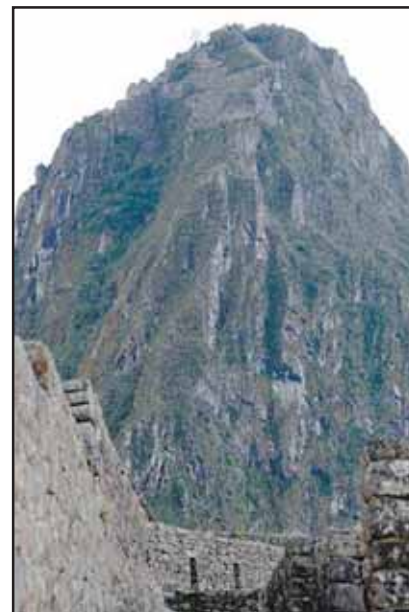
feel. Ernesto responded and modified his position ever so slightly. He believed that given enough time I could reach the summit, but feared that I would slow the climbing group so much that they and I would miss the last bus out of Machu Picchu, or cost the others the chance to reach the goal. If I wished to try, he would take me.

Over dinner, Tom White announced his intention to join Jim. “Henry is going, too,” Jim said. I answered that I had not yet decided and added dishonestly that it depended on what Bull and Lizzie wanted to do. I was hiding behind wife and son. I was buying time. I would have to carefully weigh the cost of failing to try against loss of failing to succeed. I would decide the following morning. I needed more time.

The night was a long one. Did I trust my strength and perseverance or would I defer to a guide who barely knew me, but who knew the mountain above and had watched me struggle below? I slept little.

The question had become a defining one. If I started the climb, would I cower and turn back at some windswept point over a sheer cliff with only a narrow path above me and humiliation below. Tom White had told the story of his first attempt to climb Half Dome at Yosemite. He had been young and fit, just out of college. But he had been paralyzed with fear and had turned back. He had finished the climb on his second

•See ANOTHER VIEW
page 9



Waynu Picchu



Machu Picchu

attempt. There would be no second chance for me. It was inconceivable that I would ever return. It was now or never. Part of me hoped that Lizzie and Bull would plead with me to join them on the easier hike. I was prepared to lie to myself as I had lied to my friends. Then I prayed that I would make the decision to challenge Waynu Picchu and that Lizzie would trust in me and my ability.

I remembered daily workouts at 5 a.m. and endless hours on the treadmill. Did those endless hours of traveling many miles to nowhere mean nothing? Were they nothing more than an uncomfortable way to watch CNN, Sports Center and X Files reruns? Did I have the physical strength and mental toughness to succeed? Did I have the self confidence to try?

Thus I spent the night. I remained conflicted at dawn. At breakfast, I told Jim Stevens, who had become a good friend, that I would join him on the climb. Tom had become ill during the night, felled by the same gastrointestinal catastrophe that had weakened me earlier in the week. As we started our climb, the group consisted of Jim Stevens from San Diego, Greg Browner from Reno, John Pulley from San Francisco, and me. I had decided to start and I was determined to finish. I had something to prove to myself and wouldn't mind proving Ernesto wrong in the process.

We left the manicured ruins and immediately entered a narrow path through the jungle. We descended into a valley before starting the serious work of climbing. Most of the trek was over irregular stone steps, placed centuries earlier by the Inca. The climb was tough, but not impossible. From the moment I entered the trail, I thought only of the top and success. I never again considered failure. I found that looking over the edge was not so

terrifying, but I spent most of my time looking ahead, focused on the next step. After some time, our guide announced the half-way point. We stopped frequently, resting, and repaying our oxygen debt. Finally an Inca stone wall loomed ahead and I knew that the summit was near. A nearly vertical climb over stone steps, a brief trip through a tunnel in the rock, a scramble up a rickety wooden ladder, and we were there. The summit consisted of boulders resting in crazy and steep angles. There was little room for us and for the strangers whom we met there. We celebrated briefly, took pictures, and began our descent. On the trip back to the valley we encouraged those on the way up. I smiled as I remembered that we had been told that going down was easier than going up. I told Greg that anyone who believed that nonsense had had heard the labored breathing and seen the heaving chests of those who passed us as we descended.

We all made it to the top and we all returned safely to the ancient city below. Each of us felt a tremendous sense of accomplishment, although, in fact, the climb had not been that difficult. For each of us felt that the climb had been the high point, literally and figuratively of the two-week trip. The view of the ancient city below was spectacular, and more precious because of the effort taken to see it.

For me, believing in myself had been the tough part and succeeding the real reward. I suspect that it might have been the same for my companions. Ernesto neither congratulated me, nor admitted that he had underestimated me. It didn't matter. We climbed on Wednesday. As I write this story on Sunday, the sense of accomplishment remains fresh. I smile easily as I recall the triumph, not so much of the mountain, but of my fears.

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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

Too close to call

Believe or not, for the first seven decades of my life, I had an extremely optimistic outlook on today, tomorrow and the future in general. Perhaps I was just too busy to notice the generally declining state of the world. Now that I no longer have the urgency of the business of the day, I'm noticing more and more that perhaps the rose colored glasses through which I viewed the goings-on blinded me from reality.

But enough about me.

Personally, polls have never meant much, especially preceding an election. However, sometimes they come in handy. I keep on hearing job performance statistics concerning President Bush and, less frequently, on Congress, so I decided to check out the current readings. The results are interesting. Averaging the 10 top polling organizations who do these things, President Bush has a job approval rating of 34.8%. Averaging the top seven which do Congress, the outcome is 34.7%. Who is doing the worse job, according to the people. Too close to call.

What has created the serious negativity among the electorate? There is no great mystery as to Bush's unpopularity, right? It's the WAR. Mostly. His lack of enthusiasm in closing our borders and his willingness to grant amnesty to the illegals doesn't help his standing. Further, the perceived disdain shown for the U.S. by most of the world is not a plus. Plenty of reasons for dissatisfaction.

As for Congress, the reasons for their sinking fortune are numerous. In my earliest columns, I warned about the dismal outlook that would ensue if the election went the way it went. With the leadership (and I use the term with tongue-in-cheek) of Ms. Pelosi and Harry Reid, the results are even worse that I had imagined.

Let's analyze the Speaker's performance to date. After she got over the "I was just elected Homecoming Queen (of the 8th grade)" phase, she launched into her widely ballyhooed first 100 hours, which produced practically nothing other than "Wow, I'm the first woman Speaker ever and I'm dang proud of it." So proud, she felt that the tiny margin of her party in the House gave her the mandate to take over the duties of the Secretary of State.

She visited several mid-east countries, concluding in Syria, fabricating Israeli diplomatic messages and generally



**Don Swanson
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encouraged. Email
swandonson@dnnet.net**

demonstrating her ignorance. Incurring the wrath of the administration and right-thinking people, Pelosi's gaffe brought an immense amount of cover from her party, reflecting the seriousness of her errors.

She has been strangely silent and out of the public eye since. I knew there was a blessing in there somewhere.

Then there is Harry Reid. The man is pathetic. Aside from all the dubious relationships and past associations with Jack Abramoff, the Nevada Athletic Commission, profitable land schemes, misuse of campaign funds, my personal favorite is the Nevada-Colorado bridge deal. Harry owns 160 acres of property in Arizona, just across the border from Nevada. In 2005, Harry put a pork project in a spending bill to fund the building of a bridge across the Colorado River that would route traffic near his otherwise seemingly worthless land. The man's arrogance knows no bounds. His recent political screw-up is his statement that the war in Iraq has been lost. Again, party members rushed to his defense claiming he was misquoted (on tape), misunderstood (hard to do), misthis, misthat mistheother. Again, he has been mostly quiet lately. We hope this blessing continues.

So, how is it that these two elements of our government are so unappreciated? The mystery to me is why the poll results are so close. Let's face it, the Bush administration's public relations effort has been dismal from the start. His original choice in press secretaries was misguided by loyalty, and while his choice of replacements was excellent, Snow's been sick much of the time. The effort to communicate his message has been dismal and shows up in the polls.

On the other hand, not only do the Dems stick to their talking points long and loud, but also as we all know, they enjoy a wildly favorable media, while Bush suffers the opposite treatment. Their spin machine is in full gear and is very effective. Which brings us to the real point here.

Hasn't the public discussion been reduced to name-calling, finger-pointing gotchas instead of working together to solve the immense problems facing our society.

The practice of government has turned into non-stop campaigning. I'm sick of it and evidently 65% of the populous are too.

... LETTERS continued from page 3

Chamber of Commerce is misrepresenting Pine Street Park

Dear Editor,

The Highlands Chamber of Commerce has recently polled its members about Pine Street Park. The Pine Street Park Committee thinks the Chamber has unfairly simplified many issues into one question about parking.

The Chamber email asks: "Do you support the removal of parking on Pine Street for the Pine Street Park? Yes / No." These are the only two options offered.

The Pine Street Park Committee in the May 7 public meeting outlined these options:

1. No closure, street improvement or parking loss;
2. Closing the east end of Pine Street only during events – temporary parking displacement of 31 spaces – create a hardscape plaza that would double as parking
3. Permanently closing the east end of Pine Street – a permanent parking displacement of 31 spaces;
4. Closing the portion of Pine Street from 5th Street to the Oak Lane alley – 38 permanent parking space displacement;
5. Closing all of Pine Street – 50 permanent parking space displacement.

The Chamber does not address any of the advantages gained by the street closure — a green space in the middle of Highlands; a place for art, cultural, civic events in the heart of town; stormwater improvement, etc. — and the Chamber has not addressed the potential for the addition of parking in the immediate vicinity of Pine Street Park.

Highlands has a very traditional, pedestrian-oriented downtown, but is lacking a very important element: a town square, defined as "an open area commonly found in the heart of a traditional town used for community gatherings." The Land Use Plan for the Town of Highlands includes such an area. Further, not just Highlands, but all the surrounding area would derive benefits from the park.

The Pine Street Park Committee believes that the parking in town is important

and sincerely wishes to fully inform the Chamber members and others of all the relevant issues. We urge everyone interested in Pine Street Park (Chamber members included) to attend our second public meeting on June 7 at the Community Center (next to the ball park on Hwy 64) at 5:30 p.m.

Hilrie Quinn
Pine Street Park Committee

War, Peace and Memorials

Dear Editor,

I'm not big on Memorial Day, as I believe that belongs to each person and how they choose to reflect and honor the loss of their kindred. War is for the elite to unleash and the middle and lower class to "dutifully" fulfill the commander's wishes. It becomes perpetual when it is used in the name of peace or religion. It has been this way for thousands of years. So for me this Memorial Day was full of learning and questioning.

I watched the movie "Troy" (the most recent one) based on the Iliad and the core of the conflict depicted was so much like today's war waging. Myth or not, it sure looks like the usual battle; Greed (\$\$), Resources (\$\$) and more land (more servitude/free labour \$\$) was its true purpose. (Yes, Mr. Swanson you are correct in one aspect, follow the money and you will understand why we love to wage war).

However, other viewpoints came up for me that have nothing to do with the military but "We the People." Ms. Brugger hit on part of it, but I will take the point to another level.

Here lie the other patriots who have few memorials: The dissenters. Our country was built on dissension from King George III and hammering out the Constitution was no picnic for some dissenting voices. By those voices however this nation created an

• See LETTERS page 19

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... FORUM continued from page 2

munity Bible Church.

Commissioner Simpson entered the original motion at the meeting to propose the moratorium, but in his motion changed our request from three stories to four stories (48 feet). When the county attorney brought a simple two-page draft ordinance for review, Mr. Simpson delayed the process further by asking that all residential construction be excluded from the height restriction. Claiming that he is “concerned about the citizens of Highlands” where “some homes on steep slopes have cathedral ceilings that reach 100 feet.”

Commissioner Simpson stated that he felt the 48-foot height limit will slow construction in Highlands and on the steep slopes elsewhere in Macon County. We feel that Commissioner Simpson does not understand the original intent of the broad-based citizens request to keep all buildings below the tree line, nor the proposed height measurement method.

Personally, I have not been able to find a 100-foot high home (nine to ten stories) in the Highlands area, even with some of the largest residential buildings I can find. Perhaps you have and can inform me before we argue for a fixed limit.

There is a legitimate concern for new

homes being built on incredibly steep slopes. The downhill foundation supports & columns can, indeed, exceed 50-60 feet. The question is, do the citizens of Highlands and Macon County want this kind of home to continue to be built on steeper and steeper slopes, and then to put a four-story residential structure on top of the 50-60 foot foundation?

If you do, then you need to speak FOR the draft ordinance as written. The Macon County Chief Building Inspector does favor this approach and believes it is fair to all owners and developers. The result will be that a building on a flat site will be limited to 48-feet above the top of foundation, whereas, one on a steep slope the building will be 48 feet above the top of the foundation with the total height depending upon where the “top of the foundation” is measured.

Recommendation:

My personal recommendation for your consideration is that the fairest measurement method for all parties (flat land or steep slopes) is the following: change the current wording of paragraph 158.06 of the draft ordinance to read as follows:

“158.06 MAXIMUM HEIGHT.

The maximum building height on any building, structure, or unit within the jurisdiction of Macon County shall not exceed 48 feet or four stories, whichever is less. For the purposes of this section, building height shall mean the vertical distance measured from the natural finished grade elevation directly and immediately outside the front door or primary entrance of the building or structure. This vertical measurement shall be made within a horizontal distance of no more than 1 foot from the primary entrance and shall include the full extent of foundation and any other occupied or unoccupied space that is above ground level at the measurement location.

The reason for the term “any other occupied or unoccupied space that is above ground level...” is to prevent the developer from claiming that a parking garage or storage beneath the living quarters or occupied space is part of “the foundation.”

Please plan to attend and speak up at the public hearing on June 18 at 5 p.m. If you also agree with the above recommendation to change the current ordinance wording, say so and please be as specific as possible when you speak. Read the revised wording if possible, so that the commissioners are left with no wiggle room to misunderstand. If you prefer a different version, please state your recommendations to the commissioners.

Expect the developers and building contractors to be out in force to speak against the building height limit. We citizens can only be heard IF you come out and also speak to the commissioners at the public hearing.

Bob Wright,
President Cold Springs Property
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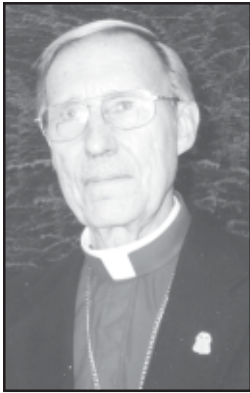
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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Where are the flags?



+The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbelding

Memorial Day has come and gone with little more than some local, poorly attended ceremonies at monuments to every war since the Civil War (aka the “War Between the States” or the “War of Northern Aggression,” depending upon your true southernness).

When I was young, we called it “Decoration Day.” Since my father died in 1942 when I was six years old and an only child, I visited the cemetery often. My mother and I helped put small American flags on the ever increasing number of graves that marked the fallen heroes of World War II. It didn’t take long after the war’s end for this to become a lost ritual of maintaining their graves, and it was my Sunday school’s mission to go and make it a day’s labor of love, placing the flags and having a short service.

Attendance was always excellent for children so young, but it was far from a feeling of great patriotism that brought us out on those hot days. The dedication was to the barbeque that followed back at the church: franks and hamburgers, potato salad and coleslaw, and the eagerly-anticipated arrival of the Good Humor Ice Cream truck. We could choose any flavor we wanted, as long as it was vanilla or chocolate!

But the flags were on the graves of our heroes, and all was right with the world.

Wars and threats of war have come and gone since those Sunday school days of more than 60 years ago. Patriotism has ebbed and flowed with each new conflict. Sadly, when it comes to the flag, there seems to be more ebb than flow.

Memorial Day is a day off, an excuse to start up the grill, go fishing, or sit under a tree with the family, but no flag will be in sight unless you’re near a public building or some other official place.

Here’s a silly question, but one which needs to be asked. Do we remember September 11? The World Trade Center? The Pentagon? That hallowed field in Pennsylvania?

As a chaplain for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, I was on call for that disaster just four hours after it happened. In the days that followed, something amazing happened. The trip from south Florida to F.B.I. headquarters in Quantico, VA, became what seemed to be a planting ground for our American flag. Few cars passed without having a flag tied to its antenna. Pick-up trucks had full-size flags flowing from their sides. Magnetic flags were stuck to every conceivable mode of transportation, from three-wheel bikes to golf carts.

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 18

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

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www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 Worship;
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. Womens Bible Study
Wednesdays: 5:15 p.m. Students' Dinner (free for kids in 8th grade and younger);
5:30 p.m. Supper; 5:45 p.m. - 7:15 pm Small Groups for kids
Pre-K through 8th; 6:15 pm - 7:15 pm Adult Bible Study
6pm-7pm Choir Practice

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Brian Sullivan – 526-2968
Monday, May 7: 4 P.M.-Womens Cursillo Group
Tuesday, May 8: 8 A.M.-Mens Cursillo Group; 9:30 A.M-Staff Meeting; 4:30 P.M.-EFM Meeting
Wednesday, May 9: 4 P.M.-Vestry Meeting; 5:30 P.M.-Dinner; 6 P.M. - Program; 6:30 P.M.-Choir Practice
Thursday, May 10: 10 A.M.-Holy Eucharist in Chapel; 10:30 A.M.-Daughters of the King
Sunday, May 13: HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY
8 A.M.-Holy Eucharist (Rite I) Chapel; 8:30 A.M.-Breakfast; 9 A.M.-Sunday School ; 9:45 A. M.-Choir Practice; 10:30 A.M.- Holy Eucharist (Rite II); 5 P.M.-NO YOUTH Spend time with your mom!

- Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.
- ## FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN
- Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor • 828-369-7977
Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m. (nursery provided)
Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.
Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by childrens
Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Junior & Senior Youth Group 6:30 p.m.;

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Wednesdays: Prayer – noon; Choir – 7

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376
Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.;
5 p.m. Youth Group
Wed: noon – Mens Emmaus Reunion Group; 4:45 –
Childrens choir and handbells; 5:30 – Supper; 6 – Adult
Handbells; 6:15 – children, youth, & adults studies;
7:15 – Adult choir
(nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)
Thurs:12:30 – Womens Bible Study (nursery)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell
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Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30
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8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Choir – 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

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Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.
For more information, call (706)-745-1842.

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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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Summary of Combined May meeting of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Board of Directors

To keep the news media and the public better informed about Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, we are providing you with a summary of the more significant actions and discussion items coming before the hospital's board of directors at its most recent meeting on Thursday, May 17.

The May meeting of the board took place a week earlier than usual, following a day-long planning retreat held at The Mountain Retreat and Conference Center in Highlands. During the morning session, board members heard an overview of current national trends in health care from nationally-known consultant Nathan Kaufman of Kaufman Advisors, LLC, of San Diego, CA. Kaufman was hired by the board this past spring to help update the hospital's strategic plan. Sandwiched in between the retreat sessions and the actual board meeting was a joint Finance Committee meeting.

• During the finance session, hospital CFO Mike Daiken told board members that hospital utilization, which has been on the upswing, was up again in April. The average daily census at the hospital more than

doubled over the previous April, up from 4.8 to 9.93 patients per day. The number of radiology procedures performed increased 20 percent as well, and respiratory services nearly doubled. Laboratory procedures were also higher. While monthly bottom line figures comparing this April to last were skewed by large adjustment in Medicare reimbursements under the critical access system, Daiken said hospital operations are ahead of budget projections for the year by more than \$200,000.

• At the actual board meeting, directors heard several updates, including one on the progress of installing a new nuclear medicine camera. The good news is that both the bids for the equipment itself and the necessary remodel came in under projections. The state's Division of Facility Services is currently reviewing the construction designs. Those designs and specifications must be approved before the project can begin. In the meantime, the hospital continues to utilize the services of a mobile nuclear scanning unit. The

hospital wants to install its own equipment, not only because it will be more convenient for area patients, but also because it will generate more revenue directly to the hospital.

• Board members also discussed plans for a new medical office building in Cashiers to be located on a portion of the old Oakmont Lodge property. An architect has been developing preliminary plans for a 23,300 square-foot building, but the project has not been given the go ahead yet.

• CEO Ken Shull reported that the new cardiac monitoring system for the emergency department and the acute hospital has been ordered from the manufacturer and is expected to be installed and operational by the end of June. The hospital is spending \$161,000 to replace its existing monitoring system that has reached

the effective end of its life.

• Shull gave the board a full run down on recent efforts to recruit a general surgeon. The hospital has looked at 17 different candidates over the past 30 days, he said. Some were clearly not the right fit for a small hospital in a resort area. Others were not pursued because of poor malpractice records or other background issues. Shull said six candidates are still under serious consideration and the search to identify other prospects is continuing. Finding a general surgeon continues to be the top physician recruiting priority.

• The board also heard about recent activities to honor hospital employees during National Hospital Week earlier this month, which included special lunches, an ice cream social, a luncheon recognizing those employees who reached milestones of service, and a number of other fun events.

Relay for Life 2007 Kick-off June 3 at Drake's Diamond Gallery

The American Cancer Society is proud to announce the Relay for Life Kick Off for the Mountain Top Communities on June 3, 2007 from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m..

The event will be held in the Courtyard of Drake's Diamond Gallery located at 152 South Second Street in Highlands.

Food and Wine will be provided by Nick's Find Foods, Oak Street Cafa, Ristornate Paoletti and the Sportspage. Music provided by Hott Acts.

"We are very proud of our volunteers in Cashiers, Glenville, Highlands, Scaly and Sapphire Valley," said Curt Crowhurst, Asheville Area Manager for the American Cancer Society. "Everyone worked extremely hard to make this Relay For Life event successful, and these high national rankings are proof that their work continues to pay off. This was the sixth year in a row that Mountain Top was ranked #1."

Last year \$246,350 was raised; 80 survivors participated; there were 40 team captains and a 12 event committees and 230 participants. The goal for this year: \$220,000 and the goal for Kick-off Party — to engage as many people at the as possible for Relay

Relay For Life is a fun-filled, overnight event that mobilizes communities throughout the country to celebrate survivors, remember loved ones and raise money for the fight against cancer. Teams of eight to 15 members gather with tents

and sleeping bags to participate in the largest fundraising walk in the nation.

"The funds raised through our Relay For Life events enable us to continue our investment in the fight against cancer through research, education, advocacy and patient services," Crowhurst added. "Thanks to the generosity of our volunteers and donors, the money raised by Relay For Life participants goes directly to the American Cancer Society's life-saving programs."

The Mountain Top community has embraced the idea of volunteerism and of donations and have taken the torch to new heights. The small communities of Highlands, Cashiers and surrounding areas and Franklin have been designated as #1 per capita in the nation for the past six years raising over \$1,000,000. This year the group will attempt to hold that honor once again. The Relay For Life Kick Off is Sunday, June 3rd at Drake's Diamond Gallery on South Second Street between 2:30-5:30 p.m. Drop in for an afternoon of refreshments and entertainment. For more information please call 526-5858. Imagine...There is no cancer.

The Mountain Top Relay For Life 2007 will held at the Highlands Recreation Center on Friday, Aug. 24 starting with the Survivor Lap at 6 p.m. through Saturday, Aug. 25, 8 a.m.

• See DEALING WITH BEAST part 2 pg 16

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• DEALING WITH THE BEAST WITHIN – PART 2 •

Bring on the poison, bring on the cure

By Nancy Welch

Chemotherapy. The very word frightened me. The first serious mention I heard of it was from my newest doctor, an oncologist, in the dark of a hospital room. He sat by my bedside, his white coat reflecting the shadows cast by the television which hung on a nearby wall.

I wondered later why chemo scared me more than the word cancer. I suppose, looking back, I had learned to live with the many symptoms of my disease. I wasn't slowed down. My life continued. I think I was in denial. But chemo, I knew, would take its toll and I would not be able to deny that.

All my life I had heard and read of the side effects of having poison pumped into one's veins for the purpose of curing or controlling cancer. On one hand, I was glad the doctor hadn't said, "There's no hope. Go home and die. We'll try to keep you comfortable."

Still, it all sounded so awful.

My doctor didn't mention any of the possible side effects. Instead, he set up an appointment for me to see him and discuss my treatment. Discuss. Hmmm. What discussion? What say could I have? Perhaps I should have chosen medical school instead of art school.

The doctor's office was less than threatening. As a matter of fact, the doc scared me more than the large empty chairs in a nearby empty room. He was SO serious. I wanted to hear a joke. I wanted to hear that I was going to be fine without chemo. No chance.

He quietly told me what pharmaceuticals he would be using in my particular case. He didn't tell me how many weeks I would be in treatment. I had already a list of my own fears and that was pretty bad. I really wasn't ready for too much information.

My first trip to the "chemo cave," as I

now call it, was not too eventful. The cave was a large, bright room. There were a number of comfortable recliners, each flanked by an IV pump, used to administer the drugs. The wall across from the chairs was one-third plate glass windows. The view was spectacular ... mountains, sky, trees. It was calming. A nurse escorted me to a chair, administered an IV and the treatment began. I was sleepy, but not about to sleep. Who knew what would happen if I wasn't aware of what was happening? I sat there for two hours, bags of liquid dripping into my IV? From time to time the pump would beep and a very kind nurse would switch bags of poison.

So far, so good. Around me other patients slept, unperturbed by what might happen while they dozed.

At the end of my treatment, the doctor gave me a prescription for nausea pills. I

•See DEALING page 17

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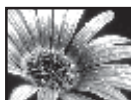
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... DEALING continued from page 16

had chemo on Thursday and felt tired, but fine — until Sunday. Then I needed the pills. To my surprise, they worked. I slept most of the day, but I was comfortable. I kept waiting for the awful nausea I had heard so much about. By Monday, I was tired, but felt fine. Maybe I could do this after all.

I was two weeks into my treatments. I woke up one morning and took a shower. I then blew my hair dry and applied my makeup. When I turned around, I saw the tiles on the wall were plastered with hair. I was surprised at my reaction. I laughed. So much for the emotion and drama portrayed in movies and on television. It was just hair and now I had to clean the stupid bathroom wall. A woman's work is never done. I eventually had my head shaved. Got tired of cleaning that wall. I looked forward to growing curls. I've never had curls. Everyone tells you when you have chemo, you will grow curls. Hah! Not me. Skip ahead a bit. I grew straight SILVER hair!!! Just my luck.

Now, on with the hair loss. Friends gave me a wig. It looked just like my hair and I felt quite complete. Even better, I didn't have to pluck my eyebrows or shave my legs. I did miss my eyelashes, though. I had tried fake eyelashes in college. Hated them. Forget it. Somehow I always missed with the glue and ended up with fringes hanging just

below my eyebrows. Estee Lauder only wants me as a customer ... and I need lots of training.

"Chemo brain" was the worst side effect. Suddenly, not only could I not write, which had been my career; but I couldn't even properly execute my signature. Years of training in penmanship (the Palmer method) down the drain. I forgot things, names and even where I was headed when I left the house. Some would say old age. Nope, this was different. I couldn't even read a book or magazine and found this very frustrating. After all, I had made a living using words, sentences and paragraphs. I would stare at the many writing awards on my wall. I could no longer even read them.

The doc told me this was normal. I found that hard to digest and I wouldn't leave him alone about this particular side effect. When I continued to complain that I couldn't write, he said, "Go home and practice." I did. It worked. Or I think it did. At least I can type and use spell check. I'm not sure I get my ideas across so well. But I will continue to practice. I hope you will give me a chance and continue to read my efforts.

Then my feet and hands began to hurt. "Neuropathy," the doc said. Nothing seemed too abnormal to him. He said the cure could hurt worse than the pain. I gave

in and decided to deal with it. I had several nights of discomfort, but I managed. That was the important lesson of chemo. I could manage. So many do.

So, now I had an excuse. Any problem must be caused by chemo. Hangnail? Chemo, no doubt. Oh yes, there was the nausea, but I suffered through it. Fever blister? Must be that last chemo treatment. Sleepless nights? Chemo. Seems that was true. Last week I asked my fellow chemo

crew members what side effects they had felt. All complained of sleeplessness. Do you know how many times HGTV shows the same shows on one night? Did you know they go off the air at 4 a.m.? Hey, you're never too old to learn.

So, the journey continues. I head for the chemo cave tomorrow. Yuck. But, you do what you gotta do!

- See "Dealing with the Beast Part 1 in the May 10 issue of Highlands' Newspaper.



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HS students honored at annual Academic Award Ceremony



This year's banquet, sponsored by Highlands Rotary, was held at the Performing Arts Center. About 74 students in grades 4-12 were recognized for being on the A or A-B Honor Roll all year. Also recognized were the three superintendent representatives from the elementary, middle and high school. They were Emily Gabbard from the elementary school, Marlee McCall from the middle school and Michael Grabe from the high school. Bitsey Calloway was the honored speaker. Principal Brian Jetter, Episcopal minister Reverend Brian Sullivan and Rotary President Brian McClellan were in attendance as were parents and family.



Photos by Stephanie McCall

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... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 13

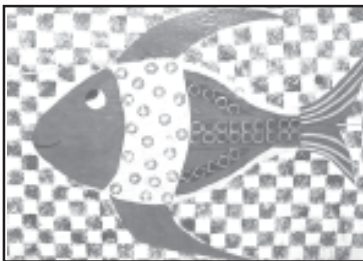
Shopping mall parking lots looked like Arlington National Cemetery. Flags of every size flew everywhere. We blew our car horns at each other and waved and pointed to the flags on our cars.

What happened to the flag since then has been a steady decline of exposure. The flag factories that worked around the clock are now down to normal shifts and less frantic production.

What has our nation done to deserve such a lack of attention to Old Glory? We still place it on the casket of a fallen hero, fold it with much ceremony at the graveside, and present it with great emotion to the family member, but is that all there is left of our feelings?

I asked the question, "Where have all the flags gone?" to a number of people in the last week; each had a different answer. Some were as simple as, "We lost our pride," to, "I don't fly it because I want to be politically correct." Shame on everyone of them. They were part of the crowd that filled every church in this nation the Sunday after 9/11 and prayed for God and country. Sadly, the latter has gone the way of the former. No time for God, and now no time for country.

My challenge to you who read my column is this: Regain your pride in your country's flag. Start to fly your nation's banner this week. Let's make this once again the land of the free and the home of the brave and be proud of our grand old flag.



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... LETTERS continued from page 11

unprecedented balanced system of governing for its time. It would evolve as more dissenting voices saw some flaws.

Throughout history we often don't recognize those who also endured torture, jail time, death threats and death itself. The ordinary people that stood in defiance of the status quo of the time and paid a very

Macon County tax goldmine, Highlands

Dear Editor,

When I received my real property assessment, I was shocked at the 280% increase from four years ago. I was certain that the millage rate would come down and decrease my taxes slightly. WRONG. My taxes for 2007 will increase by 88% – assessed value times .00245 equals the taxes.

County Manager Sam Greenwood seems to be making dire predictions on loss of funding sources from the state. That may or may not come true. In the meantime with the increased tax rate Macon County will be awash with new tax revenue mainly from the Highlands Township. The millage rate must be cut further.

Jerome Ingate
Highlands

... ACCIDENT from pg 1

Hospital unharmed, it does bring issues to the forefront.

"With an increasing volume of people on foot and vehicular traffic, everyone must be very cognitive of their surroundings," said Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell. "People must keep their eyes wide open and use good common sense as well as the Golden Rule and yield the right-of-way."

State law mandates that motorists yield the right-of-way to pedestrians in crosswalks. Harrell said if a motorist hits or hurts a pedestrian whether legally in a crosswalk or even if a pedestrian darts into traffic as people often do mid-block on Main Street, the motorist is still responsible.

"If someone is injured or killed by a motorist the motorist can be charged with assault with a deadly weapon or with vehicular manslaughter," he said.

The motorist who hit the stroller was cited for "failing to yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian in a crosswalk when the crosswalk was clearly marked as such."

Mayor Don Mullen said he drives through the intersection of Main and 3rd streets almost everyday and considers it dangerous.

"Because of lack of visibility coming onto Main Street from 3rd Street from either direction, one has to edge into Main to see in both directions. The accident there this past weekend was unfortunate and others in the future must be avoided," he said.

Mullen said a possible solution would be to put a traffic light at the intersection. "I will recommend that we study this carefully over the next few months and decide if a traffic light is necessary," he said.

high price. I don't mean just the African Americans; I refer to women and men of all backgrounds, Chinese, Japanese, and most assuredly Native Americans. I could not as a woman even begin to write this without the suffragette movement and the many women who worked in the factories and formed "reading circles" to fight for their rights and gain knowledge.

Chief Joseph from the Nez Pierz tribe after many attempts of compromise with the government then said, "Good words (promises) do not pay for my people" {Howard Zinn, "Voices of a Peoples History". He was tired of the white man's war and occupation, filled with broken promises. He was an unsung hero.

"Patriotism is the last resort of scoundrels," says Mark Twain, one of our true heroes, who in humour, understood that dissent was the founding of our nation.

The millions of "unknown soldiers" (citizens) who walk in peace marches to protest a nation gone awry, whether it is in Mexico, India, France, or here in the U.S., are to be honored too. In my opinion, every war has a cause (\$\$), but every dissenter protects our liberty.

Lee Hodges
Highlands



PO Box 2046
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828-526-8811

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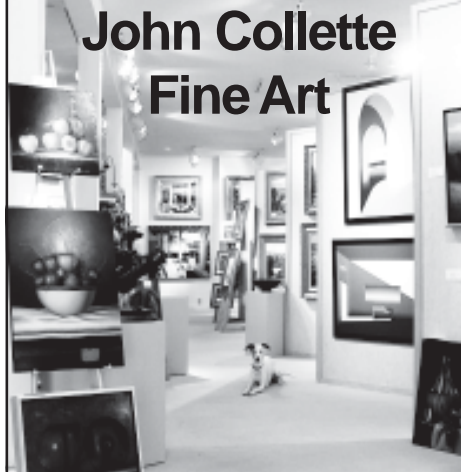
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Sunday, June 17, 11 a.m.
Holy Communion
The Rev. Paul Blankinship
Assistant at All Saint's Anglican
Church, Arden, NC

All services are at the
Highlands Community Center
on Highway 64 next to the ballpark.
For more information, call the
Christ Anglican Church office at 526-2320
Visitors and friends are welcome!



Middle School science students gather in the butterfly garden in front of the school for the butterfly release.

HS science class preps school butterfly garden for new arrivals

At 2:05 p.m. on April 24, Mr. Gene Borino and his 23 Highlands School 6th grade science students came to the butterfly garden in front of the school.

By 2:25 p.m. the students had distributed 225 bags of mulch around the garden.

"Mulch helps keep the soil moist," explained Lindsey Wagner, 6th grade science student. During times of no rain, that's especially important for root development.

Mr. Borino's students also dead-headed the pansies, learning that pansies can withstand colder temperatures than most flowers and that pinching back dead blooms encourages pansies to make more flowers instead of making seeds. The students also removed daylily leaves killed by subfreezing temperatures in mid April.

Fourteen members of the Mountain Garden Club were on hand to assist. David Sims, owner of Highlands Lawn & Garden, provided the mulch at a generous discount.

"The kids did a super job," said Dr. Becky Schilling of the Mountain Garden Club. "Thanks to them, the garden is in good shape for the butterflies they are raising in their classroom."

Each spring the Mountain Garden Club buys painted lady

butterfly larvae (caterpillars) for the 6th grade science students at Highlands School.

Students get to watch the larvae feed, grow, form chrysalises, and emerge as adult butterflies. The process takes 14 to 20 days.

Students then release the adult butterflies in the butterfly garden.

As Schilling showed the students, mulching the areas around the butterfly garden helps control weeds. "With fewer weeds, there will be fewer weed seeds blowing into the garden," she said.

The butterfly garden at Highlands School is an ongoing project of the Mountain Garden Club.

"Money from the Mountain Garden Club plant sale pays for everything we do in and around this garden," Schilling explained. "In April alone we've spent over \$800 on the garden and materials for students."

The 25th annual Mountain Garden Club plant sale will be held 9 a.m. to 1p.m., May 26, at the baseball park on the corner

of Highway 64 East (North 4th Street) and Hickory Street, Highlands, NC.

Proceeds from the plant sale also support the Wertzler Memorial Garden at Town Hall and scholarships for college-level studies of horticulture or related fields.



Highlands School science teacher Gene Borino releases a butterfly.

Village Square Art Show colorful affair



The second annual Village Square Arts & Crafts Show was full of craftsmen, artists and visitors to Highlands over the Memorial Day weekend. Photo and watercolor effects by Jim Lewicki

• BUSINESS NEWS •

Three authors sign at Cyrano's on Saturday, June 2

On Saturday morning and afternoon June 2, Cyrano's Bookshop will host three authors as they sign copies of their books. "I Heard It On the Mountain (Think I'll Tell It)" by Toni Myers (autographing from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.) is an inspirational work that combines original poetry and philosophical meditations with scripture and quotations. James T. Costa's "The Other Insect Societies" examines the social organization of beetles, caterpillars and spiders; and Brad Sanders's "Guide to William Bartram's Travels: Following the Trail of America's First Great Naturalist" provides a thorough background and itinerary for the Quaker botanist who explored the southeast—including the Highlands area—in the 1770s. Both Mr. Costa and Mr. Sanders will sign their books from 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Toni (Antoinette) Myers and her husband Happy are long-time Highlands seasonal residents from Mobile, Ala. Toni's new book "I Heard It On the Mountain (Think I'll Tell It)" is full of her hard-won but gently imparted advice on faith, adversity and seeing the best in others. Mixed in with her light, teaching couplets are some very funny anecdotes reminiscent of Gayden Metcalfe's "Being Dead is No Excuse."

For instance, there is the story of Jane Harris, who used her diagnosis of terminal cancer to finally set a friend straight about that white slip showing every time she knelt at the communion rail of St. John's Episcopal Church in Montgomery: Jane phoned to say she was leaving her dark-colored slips to her in her will. In another section, Toni realizes how lucky she is to have a refuge in Highlands—complete with generator—after Hurricane Katrina had done so much damage along the Gulf coast. But, generator aside, are we really ready for whatever God might send our way? If today is our last, are we "good to go" at any given moment"? As Hebrews 11:16 has it, "Let not your heart be troubled." Come meet the warm and gregarious Toni on Saturday morning, June 2, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Everyone knows that ants and bees live in highly organized societies but are they the only ones of their kind? In "The Other Insect Societies" James T. Costa, executive director of the Highlands Biological Station and the H. F. and Katherine P. Robinson Professor of Biology at Western Carolina University, examines other species of creepy crawlies and finds that they, too, have com-

• See CYRANO'S page 27

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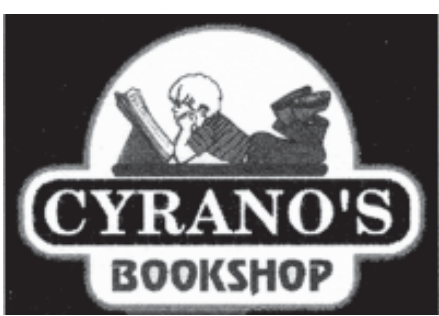
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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going

- Services at the Church in the Wildwood in Horse Cove. Sundays at 7 p.m. through Labor Day. Dress is casual. Old fashioned hymn-sing.
- Registration has begun for this summer's nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Please call 526-2623 or visit the Nature Center webpage at www.wcu.edu/hbs.
- NA open meeting every Saturday at 7:30 p.m. of the ACC Satellite Group at the Graves Community Church, 242 Hwy 107 N. in Cashiers. Call 888-764-0365 or go to the website: www.ncmana.org.
- Step Aerobics at the Rec Park, 4-5 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays. \$5 per class.



390 Main Street • 526-5488

Upcoming Book Signings

June 2

- 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Toni Meyers

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

- 2-4 p.m.

James Costa

"The Other Insect Societies"

& Brad Sanders

"Guide to William Bartram's Travels."

June 9

- 1-3 p.m.

Barbara Brown Taylor

"Leaving Church"

June 16

- 5-7 p.m.

Natalie Dupree

"Shrimp and Grits"

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

- 5-7 p.m.

Jack Bass

"Strom"

June 23

- 12:30-2

Bill Alexander

"Biltmore Nursery:

A Botanical Legacy"

- 2:30-4:30

Ann Ross

"Miss Julia Strikes Again"

June 30

- 1-3 p.m.

Don Brown

"Treason"

- 5-7 p.m.

Gayden Metcalfe

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

July 7

- 1-3 p.m.

Charles Martin

• 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, various exercise 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 Saturday

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

• Live music at Cyprus Restaurant in the Dillard Village Shopping Center at 9:30 p.m. \$10 cover.

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

First Mondays

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

Every Monday

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

Every Tuesday

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

• 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 mid-week 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.

Tuesdays and Thursdays

• Classical Yoga Beginner Level Class 8:15-9:30 a.m., 464 Carolina Way. Other classes available. Mats and blankets provided. \$14 per single/\$12 package rate.

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.

• Thomas Rain Crowe (Author, Southern Environmental Law Center's Philip Reed Book of the Year Award 2006) "My Life in the Appalachian Woods: A Modern Day Walden" as part of the Zahner Lecture Series.

• Zahner Conservation Lectures 2007, 7 p.m. at

The Highlands Nature Center: 930 Horse Cove Road. A reception will follow this lecture My Life in the Appalachian Woods: A Modern Day Walden. Thomas Rain Crowe (Author, Southern Environmental Law Center's Philip Reed Book of the Year Award 2006).

Friday & Saturday, June 1 & 2

• "The Life and Times of William Bartram" at the Highlands Biological Station and High Hampton Inn, in Cashiers. For more information about the Bartram Symposium call the Cashiers Historical Society at 828-743-7710.

• The Appalachian High Folk Concert Series kicks off its second season on Saturday with Cosy Sheridan who has been described as "one of the era's finest and most thoughtful singer/songwriters." Cosy will also be teaching a two-day song-writing workshop Cost of the workshop is only \$50. Both concert and workshop take place at The Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main located at 310 Main Street. Concert Tickets are \$25 and reservations are strongly suggested. Call 828-342-9197 for reservations and information.

Friday, June 1

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

Saturday, June 2

• At Cyprus Restaurant, Zorki playing acoustical favorites beginning at 9:30 p.m. \$10 cover.

• Three booksignings at Cyrano's Book Shop on Main Street. "I Heard It On the Mountain (Think I'll Tell It)" by Toni Myers from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; James T. Costa's "The Other Insect Societies" and Brad Sanders's "Guide to William Bartram's Travels: Following the Trail of America's First Great Naturalist" from 2:30-4:30 p.m.

• Appalachian High kicks off its concert series this Saturday with Cosy Sheridan at the Instant Theatre Co. Studio on Main in Highlands. Tickets are \$25 and reservations are strongly suggested. For more information about the show or for reservations call 828-342-9197. Cosy is also presenting a songwriting workshop on Friday evening and Saturday day before her concert.

• Special sports physical clinic for school athletic programs are being held at the Macon County Public Health Center in Franklin. The clinics are open to rising 7th grade – 12th grade students who plan to participate in school athletics anytime during the 2007-2008 school year. Appointments are required and may be scheduled at the Macon County Public Health Center by calling 349-2081. There will be a charge of \$10 for the physical and all proceeds will go to the Schools' Athletic Fund.

• On Land Trust Day, eco-minded businesses in Highlands and Cashiers will show their support for the conservation efforts of Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust by taking part in the first local celebration of Land Trust Day. Merchants will donate a percentage of their sales on this day or will become corporate members, in an effort to recognize how their customers value the open spaces, hiking trails, scenic views and other outdoor recreation areas that land trust protect.

• Join the Nantahala Hiking Club as they help the Konnarock trail crew work on a section of the Appalachian Trail to celebrate National Trail Day. The six mile hike is rated easy. Lunch will be furnished. Bring plenty of water to drink. Meet in front of the Nantahala Outdoor Center store in Wesser at 9:00 a.m., returning by 5 p.m. Call leader Bill Van Horn, 369-1983, to make reservations by 11 p.m. May 30.

Sunday, June 3

• MountainTop Relay For Life Kick-Off Party at Drake's Diamond Gallery from 2:30-5:30 p.m.

• CLE's Gala Opening Concert and Preview Party to introduce this year's presenters at PAC celebrating its 15th Year featuring The Smoky Mountain Brass Band at 3 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres served

• The Land Trust for the Little Tennessee (LTLT)

and the Little Tennessee Watershed Association (LTWA) will be hosting a joint fundraising event on Sunday, from 1-5 p.m. The event begins at the Great Smoky Mountain Fish Camp at 81 Bennett Rd. in Franklin where, for a donation, canoes will be available to rent, you can launch your own canoe, or rent a comfortable inner tube to float down the river. Then after a pleasant canoe trip down the river, stop at the Cowee Creek take out to enjoy music, purchase food, and learn more about both organizations and their programs. For more information, contact Kate Parkerson at 524-2711.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 2-mile hike on the Jack Rabbit Mountain trail at Lake Chatuge in GA. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2p.m. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. The car pool will drive 50 miles round trip. Hikes are limited to 20 people; reservations are required. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Tuesday-Friday, June 5-8

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

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.

Wednesday, June 6

• At CLE, "Darwin's The Origin of Species" with James Costa of the Highlands Biological Station. At the Performing Arts Center, from 10 a.m. to noon. \$20 for members, \$30 for nonmembers. Call 526-8811.

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.

• Zahner Conservation Lectures 2007, 7 p.m. at The Highlands Nature Center: 930 Horse Cove Road. A reception will follow this lecture Amphibian Conservation: The Lost Years Between Metamorphosis and Adulthood. Ray Semlitsch (Curators' Professor, University of Missouri).

Friday - Sunday, June 9-11

• Contemporary Ballet Theatre of Savannah will unveil "Dare to be Moved," a dynamic, creative and high-energy production with a large range of original choreography at the Highlands Playhouse at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and at 2 p.m. on Sunday. To reserve tickets, call the box office at (828) 526-2695.

Saturday, June 9

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 6-mile hike to Schoolhouse Falls and Little Green Mountain in Panthertown Valley, with an elevation change of 500 feet or more. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. or the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10 a.m. Drive 30 miles round trip, returning 4-5 p.m. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people; reservations are required. Call leader Virginia Talbot, 526-4904, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

• 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 Balsam Gap.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Saturday at ITC



Appalachian High kicks off its concert series this Saturday, June 2 with Cosy Sheridan at the Instant Theatre Co. Studio on Main in Highlands. Sheridan and her wryly insightful songs have been showcased everywhere from Carnegie Hall to The Dr Demento Show. She has been called "one of the era's finest and most thoughtful singer/songwriters." Tickets are \$25 and reservations are strongly suggested. For more information about the show or for reservations call 828-342-9197. Cosy is also presenting a songwriting workshop on Friday evening and Saturday day before her concert.

- Three book signings at Cyrano's Book Shop, at 390 Main Street. From 11-1 it's Toni Meyers "I Heard it on the Mountain, I Think I'll Tell It;" from 2-4 p.m. it's James Costa "The Other Insect Societies" & Brad Sanders "Guide to William Bartram's Travels." and from 1-3 p.m. it's Barbara Brown Taylor's "Leaving Church."
- Come get A Taste of Girl Scouting on 1-4 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church in Tartan Hall and learn how you can join the fun in Macon County. There will be a craft, you will prepare and cook your own camp snack, learn some fun songs and play some games. Girls of all ages are invited and must attend with parents or guardians. For more information, call Linda Mitchell, 800 522-6280 ex 305.

- At the Highlands Nature Center. 4th Annual "Salamander Meander" at the Highlands Nature Center. 9 p.m, ages 7 – adult. Join herpetologists on a night search to observe some of the area's magnificent salamanders in the wild. Bring rain gear and a flashlight. \$5 per person, advanced registration required due to limited space. Call 526-2623

Tuesday, June 12

- At CLE, "A Highlands Garden Through the Season and the Years" with Jodie Benson-Zahner of Chattooga Gardens Nursery in Cashiers. At the Performing Arts Center. 10 a.m. to noon. \$20 for members, \$30 for nonmembers. Call 526-8811.

Thursday, June 14

- Zahner Conservation Lectures 2007, 7 p.m. at The Highlands Nature Center: 930 Horse Cove Road. A reception will follow this lecture Letting the Land Speak to Us. Kay Byer (Poet Laureate of North Caro-

lina).

- Summer Edventure Camp Parent Night.. All parents who have enrolled children in the Summer Edventure Camp are required to attend a mandatory Parent Night at 7 p.m. in the Cartoogechaye School gym. At this meeting, parents will be given more information regarding the camp schedule, a camper shirt, list of items your child will need to bring daily, and procedures and parental responsibilities. Parents are reminded that all tuition and birth certificates, immunization records, health insurance information and photos are due by Thursday, June 7th, at the Macon County School Central Office located at 1202 Old Murphy Road. Macon County Schools reserves the right to offer the summer Camper slot to other interested parties on the waiting list if the full tuition is not received by June 7th. Registration fees are not refundable for any reason.

Friday, June 15

- At CLE, "Philip Morseberger: Passion for Painting" at the Performing Arts Center from 10 a.m. to noon. \$20 for members. \$30 for nonmembers. Call 526-8811.

Sat. & Sun., June 16 & 17

- Medicinal Plants of Summer Weekend Seminar at the Foxfire Center, in Mountain City, GA. Seminar times 10 a.m..to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Cost for the weekend is \$180. To register, or for more information, call 706-746-5485 or visit www.botanologos.com. On-site accommodations are available.

Saturday, June 16

- Smoky Mountain Beekeepers will hold an advanced beekeeping school from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. featuring Robin Mountain, president of the Kentucky Beekeepers Association. Basic bee biology and queen rearing will be covered, and the session will include a hands-on grafting session in the main gymnasium at SCC's Swain County Center, 60 Almond Road, off U.S. 19/74 west of Bryson City. Lunch will be provided. The charge is \$10, payable by cash or check. Call the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service by noon on June 14 at 586-4009 to register.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will offer two hikes on the Georgia Bartram Trail near Clayton GA. The first hike is a moderate 4-miles to Martin Creek Falls. The second hike, for those who wish to continue, is an 8-mile strenuous hike, with a side trail up Pinnacle Mountain for an outstanding view, with an elevation change of 1800 feet. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 9 a.m. or call leader for an alternate meeting place. Drive 30 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people; reservations are required. Call leader Doug Deane, 864-718-9265, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

- The Nantahala Hiking will take a strenuous 8-9 mile hike to Windy Falls on the Horsepasture River, an awesome, rarely visited waterfall, with the option of exploring a small cave, 40 – 50 feet long, near the falls. The elevation change is 600-700 feet; parts of the trail are rough and unmaintained, definitely not for those with health problems. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9:30 a.m. Drive 30 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people; reservations are required. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles at 743-1079, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Sunday, June 17

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike on the Little Rock Branch Trail in the Standing Indian area. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 p.m. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Drive 28-miles round trip. Hikes are limited to 20 people; reservations are required. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-

6820, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Monday, June 18

- Wine Dinner at Wolfgang's on Main at 6 p.m. Featuring Domaine Serene Winery with Michelle Farakas, East Coast Sales Manager. Call 526-3807.

Wednesday, June 20

- A partnership between The Village Green and Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust brings a series of lectures and outdoor experiences to the Cashiers Library at 6:30 p.m. Peter Lundberg, commissioned sculptor for the Village Green.

- 2007 Studio Dinner Series in artists' creative environments. Theme: High Up Down Under at Artist Diane McPhail's at 6 p.m. New Zealand cuisine catered by Let Holly Do the Cooking, wines by Highlands Wine and Cheese, part of art sales to benefit Highlands Community Child Development Center. Call Summit One Gallery for reservations at 526-2673.

June 21-July 8

- At The Highlands Playhouse, Cole Porter's "Kiss Me Kate," performed from June 21 through July 8. To reserve tickets, call the box office at (828) 526-2695.

Thursday, June 21

- 2007 Studio Dinner Series in artists' creative environments. Theme: East of the Sun, West of the Moon at Artist Rosemary Stiefel's at 6 p.m. Euro-Asian cuisine catered by Let Holly Do the Cooking, wines by Highlands Wine and Cheese, part of art sales to benefit the Highlands Land Trust. Call Summit One Gallery for reservations at 526-2673.

- Zahner Conservation Lectures 2007, 7 p.m. at The Highlands Nature Center: 930 Horse Cove Road. A reception will follow this lecture Left Brain, Right Brain: Plants in the Arts and Sciences. Peter White (Professor of Biology & Director of the North Carolina Botanical Garden, UNC at Chapel Hill)

Saturday & Sunday, June 23 & 24

- Paws on Parade — a two-day-fun-filled summer event for the family and the family dog. Paws on Parade will be held Saturday, June 23, in Sapphire Valley Resort. Family lunches will be available at the Four Seasons Grill on the ski slopes. Any organization or business who is dog-related and would like to have a booth may call 743-1683

Saturday, June 23

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 6-mile hike to the lower falls of Middlecreek. Hikers should bring along shoes (and a small towel) to wade across the creek. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the first overlook on GA highway 246, about 5 miles coming up from Dillard toward Highlands. Drive 3-miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people; reservations are required. Call leader Virginia Talbot, 526-4904, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Tuesday, June 26

- "An Innocent Consequence", a virtual journey to Africa with Beth Moore as she shares her visit to the Orphans of Kenya. Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church, North Fifth Street, Highlands. If you like, bring a dish to share at 5:30 p.m. Slide presentation begins at 6:15 p.m.

Wednesday, June 27

- "Owl Prowl" at the Highlands Nature Center. 7:30 p.m, all ages. In collaboration with the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society. Come to our amphitheater for a presentation by the Carolina Raptor Center featuring live owls, then stay for a night hike to look for owls in the wild. Bring your flashlight. Free, but contributions to CRC are appreciated. Call 526-2623.

- At CLE, "Hand Papermaking" with Sara Morgan Wingfield at her studio from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Meet at the Civic Center at 9 a.m. to carpool to the meeting. \$25 for members. \$35 for nonmembers. Call 526-8811.

Thursday, June 28

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

- Zahner Conservation Lectures 2007, 7 p.m. at The Highlands Nature Center: 930 Horse Cove Road. A reception will follow this lecture What Has Been Lost: What Must Be Saved: A Writer's Views on Environmental Issues in Southern Appalachia. Ron Rash (Author, James Still Award by the Fellowship of Southern Writers 2005).

- At CLE, "How Highlands Works" with Town Administrator Richard Betz at Town Hall from 10 a.m. to noon. It's Free. Call 526-8811.

Friday, June 29

- At CLE, "The Heiresses: American Royalty" with Rick Hutto at the Performing Arts Center from 10 a.m. to noon. \$20 for members. \$30 for nonmembers. Call 526-8811.

June 30-July 7

- 2007 Highlands Show House at Tug Wa Ridge, ca. 1920. All proceeds to benefit the children's programs at Bascom-Louise Gallery, Carpe Diem Farms, Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society, Community Care Clinic of Highlands-Cashiers, Highlands Playhouse. Hours are Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and noon-5 p.m. on Sundays.

July 14

- At the Highlands Nature Center. "Snakes of the Highlands Region" at the Highlands Nature Center. 7 – 8:30 pm, all ages. Come for an educational program about local snake species featuring live animals. Learn snake identification, natural histories, and common misconceptions about them. \$2 per person. Call 526-2623

June 30-July 31

- At Summit One Gallery at its new location on South Second Street and Helen's Barn Ave., exhibit "Hudson River Valley School Revisited" featuring artist Ron Williams.

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HELP WANTED

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT NEEDED

Stephen L. Lucas CPA, PA has an opening for an Administrative Assistant to support our growing public accounting and business consulting practice based in Highlands, N.C. Position responsibilities would include receptionist and secretarial duties. Qualified person would have good people skills, practical computer experience including Microsoft Word, Excel, Microsoft Outlook. For more information and to schedule an interview, please call 828-526-2399 or send or email a resume to: P.O. Box 1357, Highlands, NC, 28741, bob.starkey@lucascpa.com

WE ARE CURRENTLY HIRING FOR A PART TIME TELLER AT OUR HIGHLANDS OFFICE! A high school diploma or GED is required, in addition to a minimum of 6 months of experience in a Teller or other cash handling, sales position. Candidates must have effective written and verbal communication skills, good computer skills, and a friendly, courteous and professional demeanor. First Citizens Bank offers excellent salaries and a comprehensive benefits program. Apply online at: www.firstcitizens.com/careers. Refer to the Job ID # when applying. EOE/AA

THE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION OF HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB is looking for a utility/handyman to assist in maintaining the roads including culvert cleaning, weed-eating, and trash removal. General handyman skills are also required for minor home repairs. Seasonal/ part-time position with flexible hours. Great for semi-retired person. Call Sylvia at 526-8286 to schedule an interview.

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE FOREMAN – for Highlands area company. Duties include over-seeing and maintenance for high-end properties. Chance to grow with company including bonuses and retirement. (828) 526-8953.

LOCAL FINE DINING RESTAURANT seeks full time prep/line cook and full time food runner/servers' assistant. Excellent work environment. Competitive wages and benefits. To apply, call Andrew or Marlene at 828-526-0354.

NICK'S RESTAURANT – Now open at new location on Main Street, taking applications for wait-staff lunch and dinner. Also lunch line cooks. Experience only. Call 526-2706. 6/7

SOCIAL WORKER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER. Full-time position, various days. Respon-

sibilities include the admission and discharge planning for the nursing home residents and the swing-bed patients, along with documentation to support all state requirements. Bachelors degree required. A minimum of 1 years experience in a long term care or hospital setting preferred. Full benefits after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

STAFF RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Full-time position, 7pm to 7am with rotating schedule. Qualified candidates must be registered by the ARRT or be registry eligible. CT experience helpful. Full benefits after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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LOT FOR SALE: Lot #8 Osage. This is almost 1 acre (.94+-acres). Lot has complete road system, 10 gallon well and Macon County septic permit. Don't miss chance! Rocky Knob fees of ONLY \$100 a YEAR! Call Chris Gilbert Broker/Owner (828)421 3161. Reduced \$109,000. Ready to build.

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.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 2 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 22 Oak Street across from RBC Centura Bank. Kids clothes, Beanies and lots more.

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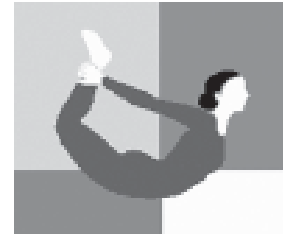
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We're completely private, yet ideally located in the exclusive Cashiers/Highlands region of Western North Carolina and only minutes from beautiful 1,500 acre Lake Glenville. Here you can live either full time or just for your favorite seasons – fully enjoying the pristine forests, lakes and fabulous waterfalls of the surrounding area.

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• POLICE & FIRE •

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of May 22-30. Only the names of persons arrested or public officials have been used.

May 22

- At 3:30 p.m., a motorist at Cobb and N.C. 106 was cited for driving without a license.

May 24

- At 11:30 a.m., a motorist at U.S. 64 and Webbmont Road was cited for driving without a license..
- At 11:48 a.m., officers responded to a two-car accident on U.S. 64.

May 25

- A motorist at N. 4th and Church streets was cited for speeding 41 mph in a 25 zone.
- A motorist at Hicks and Billy Cabin roads was cited for speeding 45 mph in a 25 zone.

May 26

- At 6:16 a.m., a motorist at 4th and Main streets was cited for speeding 37 mph in a 20 zone.
- At 9:10 a.m., a motorist at Cobb Road and N.C. 106 was cited for driving with an expired registration.
- At 11 a.m., a resident reported the unauthorized use of a credit card.
- At 2 p.m., a motorist a 3rd and Main streets was cited for failing to yield the right of way to a pedestrian in a crosswalk which was clearly marked as such.

May 27

- At 1:05 p.m., Seth Carnes, 26, of Highlands, was arrested for DWI at Cherokee and N.C. 106 when he was stopped for driving with an expired registration.

May 28

- At 12:15 p.m., a wooden bear valued at \$1,329 was reported stolen from in front of The Bird Barn.
- At 11:15 a.m., two drivers at N.C. 106 and Buttermilk Road were cited for driving with expired registrations.

May 29

- At 11 a.m., a motorist was cited for driving with an expired registration at Laurel and U.S. 64 east.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the weeks of May 23-28

May 23

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Cherokee Drive. The patient was taken to the hospital.
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a

residence on Dillard Road. The patient was taken to the hospital.

- The dept. responded to an alarm on Spring Street. It was false.
- The dept. responded to an alarm at The Rib Shack which was set off by workers.

May 24

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Pine Point. There was no transfer.
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Garnett Rock Trail. There was no transport.

May 25

- The dept. responded to an alarm at Overlook Villas. It was false.

May 26

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on S. 2nd. Street. There was no transport.
- The dept. responded to an accident at the intersection of Third and Main streets where a motorist hit four pedestrians in a crosswalk. They were transported to the hospital.

May 27

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Lake Villas. The patient was transported to the hospital.
- The dept. responded to a fire at a residence on Shadow Creek Lane where a gas grill caught on fire and burned the deck and part of the house.

... PRINCIPAL from page 1

was a teacher and coach in South Carolina from 1985-1999; assistant principal at Newberry Middle School in Newberry, S.C. from 2001-2004 and a biology teacher at Newberry High School from 2004-2006. He also taught at Walhalla, S.C.

Pat Davis has been named Director of Testing & Accountability. She currently serves as assistant principal at Macon Middle School.

Carol Waldroop will be returning to the district level as K-5 Curriculum Director effective July 1, 2007. Waldroop currently serves as principal of Cartoogechaye Elementary School. Both will assume their new responsibilities July 1, 2007.

In related news, Highlands School second grade teacher Melanie Miller has been named “Teacher of the Year” by her peers. She is one of 11 Macon County teachers who will be considered for the coveted “Macon County Teacher of the Year” later this month.

... BUDGET from page 1

amounts. Interest on investments in all funds are also expected to exceed budget due to improved local rates on Certificates of Deposit – the average rate is just over 5.25%.

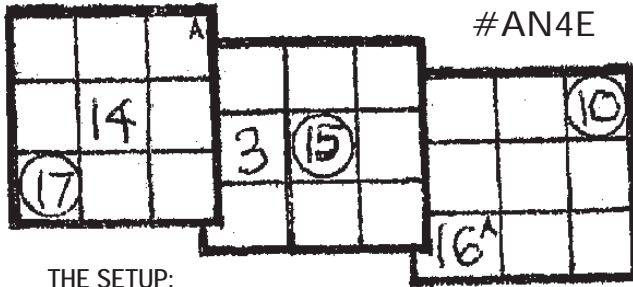
The revenue neutral property tax rate would be 12.5%. This rate would generate \$2.2 million in revenue, the same amount projected to be generated from last year’s 19% rate.

Betz said each year utility rates are analyzed to see if revenues will meet or exceed expenses. The town’s two enterprise funds – the water/sewer fund and the electric fund are considered business enterprises where the cost of providing services is financed through user charges. Betz said those funds are healthy and a rate increase is not expected for electricity or water/sewer.

Upcoming capital projects include removing silt from the Big Creek arm of Lake Sequoyah estimated at \$300,000; the first phase of the Harris Lake Drainage Basin project which will extend sewer to about 100 homes in the Harris Lake, Sunset Hills, and Satulah Mountain areas to eliminate suspected leaking of inadequate septic systems; budget requests from nonprofits of \$52,695; \$100,000 for the Greenway Project; \$100,000 for utility pole changeouts; and various expenditures throughout various departments for personnel, equipment including vehicles.

The town’s fund balances are hefty, “ Healthy and way over what is required by the state, but necessary to maintain when significant emergency expenditures due to storm damage is a possibility.” said Betz.

PseudoCube[©]



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.

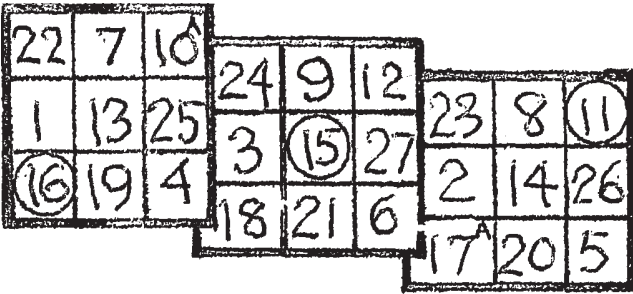
THE CHALLENGE:

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 #AN4D in the May 17 paper



... CYRANO’S from page 21

plex social behavior. The esteemed science journal Nature called Dr. Costa’s writing “scholarly enough to appeal to professionals, yet it is accessible enough to enlighten any interested reader. His book gives the ‘other insect societies’ well-deserved time in the spotlight.” Nature also praised the book’s “stunning color photographs,” and the distinguished scientist Edmund O. Wilson—whose commentaries appear in “The Other Insect Societies”—says it is a “marvelously researched and comprehensive work.”

Like Dr. Costa, Brad Sanders will give a talk this weekend at the Cashiers Historical Society’s William Bartram Symposium. In late spring 1775, when Bartram journeyed through what is now Macon County, he noted that the ridges “veiled in blue mists, sublimely mount aloft, [while others] with yet greater majesty lift up their pompous crests and overlook vast regions.” Mr. Sanders spent eight years compiling his “Guide to William Bartram’s Travels,” which The Wall Street Journal declared “a delightful compliment to Bartram’s own book, with maps, a detailed itinerary and enchanting local history” that trace Bartram’s routes through the Carolinas, Georgia, Florida, Alabama and the Gulf Coast and list every historical site and museum associated with Bartram or his time—a sort of Michelin Blue Guide to the colonial southeast. History buffs should have it on their car seat right next to the road atlas. Mr. Sanders and Dr. Costa will sign their books from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, June 2.

Cyrano’s Bookshop is located at 390 Main Street in Highlands, North Carolina. Books can be reserved for autographing by calling (828) 526-5488 or sending an e-mail to cyranos@nctv.com; to learn more about our store please visit www.cyranosbookshop.com.

• RE TRANSACTIONS •

Parcel Id, Grantee Name, Address, Property Description, Date, Acreage, Stamps, Land Val, Build Val, Grantor Name
Divide the revenue stamp amount by two, and multiply by 1000 to get the sale price.

- 0502182, WATKINS, J WILLIAM 403 DUNWOODY LANE HOLLYWOOD, FL 33021, 14 UNIT 601 BLDG 6 COND 1 HIGHLANDS MT CLUB, 05-16-07, 0.0200, \$0.00, \$50,000., \$232,310., WATKINS, J WILLIAM & WATKINS, RUTH

- 0504548, HENNING, RANDOLPH H 2603 PEACHTREE RD ATLANTA, GA 30305, 449 CENTER DRIVE GREENWOOD FOREST, 05-16-07, 0.5700, \$850.00, \$248,980., \$177,430., HELLER, ARTHUR W & HELLER, VICKI

- 0503059, JACKSON, SUZANNE FOLEY 1108 OSAGE AVENUE WEST COLUMBIA, SC 29169, 14 WALHALLA RD, 05-24-07, 0.5600, \$127,410., \$164,680., FOLEY, FLORENCE SAUSSY

- 0521707, STOWERS, JOHN W JR 1631 EAST FAIRVIEW AVENUE MONTGOMERY, AL 36106, 101 STONEY CREEK CIRCLE, 05-16-07, 1.0, \$1,060.00, \$170,000., \$372,860., LK PARTNERS INC & MOSSLANDS INC

- 0500380, YEARGIN, ROBERT H TRUSTEE 115 EDINBURG COURT GREENVILLE, SC 29607, 317 SPRUCE LANE HLDS FALLS, 05-18-07, 0.8300, \$0.00, \$148,580., \$433,420., YEARGIN, ROBERT H & YEARGIN, MARY ELLEN

- 0619261, PUGH FAMILY LP 2434 BASIN DRIVE GAINESVILLE, GA 30506, LOT 21 LOIS PURDIN PROP, 05-17-07, 1.1900, \$0.00, \$24,540., \$0., PUGH, JAMES H

- 0637206, PUGH FAMILY LP 2434 BASIN DRIVE GAINESVILLE, GA 30506, LOT 23 LOIS PURDIN PROP, 05-17-07, 0.2200, \$0.00, \$10,830., \$0., PUGH, JAMES H

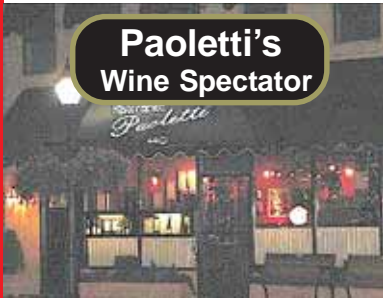
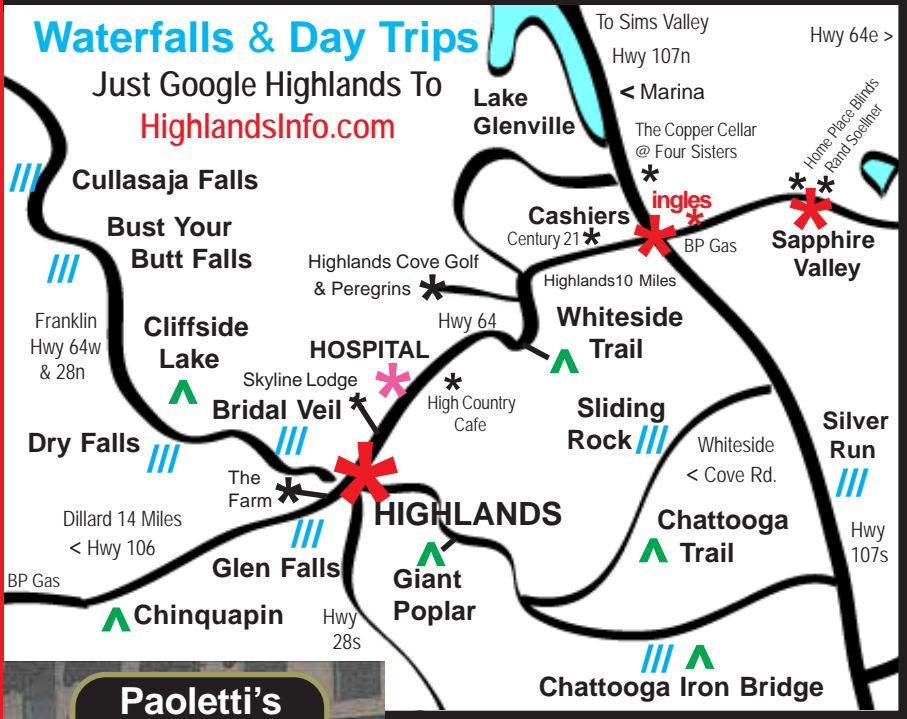
- 0619262, PUGH FAMILY LP 2434 BASIN DRIVE GAINESVILLE, GA 30506, LOT 22 LOIS PURDIN PROP, 05-17-07, 1.0800, \$0.00, \$24,540., \$0., PUGH, JAMES H

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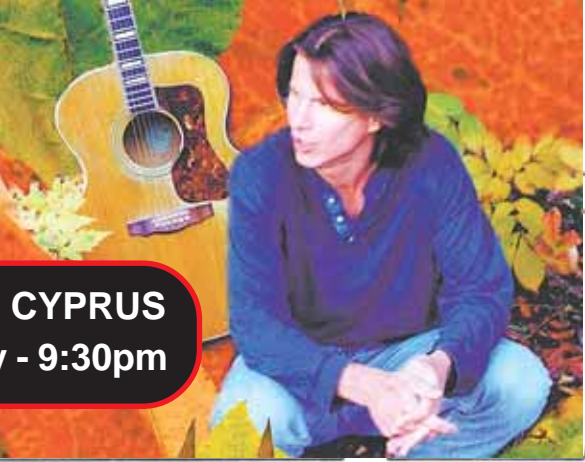
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7 Pescado's	7 Raspberry Fizz	6 Summit One
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