

# Highlands' Newspaper FREE

Volume 5, Number 42

PDF Version – [www.HighlandsInfo.com](http://www.HighlandsInfo.com)

Thursday, Oct. 18, 2007

## On-going

• Auctions at Scudder's Galleries Monday-Saturday at 8 p.m. Viewing from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 352 Main St.

• Live music every night at 7:30 p.m. and during brunch on Sunday at ...on the Verandah restaurant.

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

• Hal Philips at the piano at Skyline Lodge and Restaurant on Flat Mountain Road Fri. & Sat. at 6 p.m.

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

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

## Every Wednesday

• "The Bible Tells Me So" at 6:15 p.m. at the HUMC at 6:15.

• Men's interdenominational Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church.

## Every Thursday

• Women's Bible Study at 9:30 am - 11:45 am at Community Bible Church. Beth Moore's "Believing God."

## Every Saturday

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

## Thursday-Sunday, Oct. 18-21

• HCP's production "The Raindrop Waltz" at PAC. 8 p.m. or 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Call 526-8084 for tickets.

## Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 18-20

• ITC's Comedy Festival with Al Ernst and with music by Benny Skyn. Call 828-342-9197.

## Thursday, Oct. 18

• Wine Tasting and Silent Auction for HUMC Holy Land trip, 6 p.m. at the Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop.

• Steele/Shooting Star Vineyards Wine dinner at OEI's The Farm. \$169 per person, inclusive. Call 787-2604.

• Flu vaccination 4-6 p.m. at the Civic Center. \$25. Call 349-2081 for appointment..

## Friday-Sunday, Oct. 19-21

• Planet Clothing Trunk Show at Acorn's Friday, Oct. 19

• At Cyrano's Bookshop, author Robert Draper will sign "Dead Certain: The Presidency of George W. Bush" from 5-7 p.m.

## Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 20-21

• "A Fall Colors Fine Art Show" at the RecPark 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• Yard Sale 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, 738 Flat Mountain Rd. To benefit The Playhouse.

## Saturday, Oct. 20

• At Cyrano's Bookshop, author M.C. Henson will sign "Unwritten" from 1-3 p.m. and Tim Pegram will sign The Blue Ridge Parkway by Foot, 3-5 p.m.

• MLIA Litter Pick-up at 9 a.m. Meet at Thorn Park.

## Tuesday, Oct. 23

• "Candidates' Forum" at the Highlands Community Center from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

## Town declared 'healthy' by auditor

Auditor Bryan Starnes pronounced the town in good fiscal shape at the Oct. 17 Town Board meeting.

The town has zero debt and a healthy fund balance of 43%.

Two particular aspects of the town's financial operations that

positively influenced the total governmental net assets are its continued diligence in the collection of property taxes and its diligence in collecting delinquent utility charges

The 43% fund balance means the town has just shy of six

months of cash on hand should something happen.

"A 50% fund balance would give a town like yours six months of cash on hand," he said.

Due to storms which have historically caused havoc on the

• See AUDIT page 7

## Temporary ad banners allowed

There's some confusion concerning the legality of hanging banners about town advertising upcoming events.

Temporary banners have been erected on commercial property of chamber of commerce board members and participants in the chamber's November culinary event. The Instant Theatre is currently advertising its upcoming comedy zone event with a banner on its theatre on Main Street, as well.




Town Administrator said such signs are legal and any business may hang them but the key word is "temporary" and a distinction is made between municipalities, nonprofits versus commercial entities."

"The culinary event signs are temporary signs permitted without a permit under Section 404.1(D) but the chamber of commerce asked about hanging them before erecting them," he said.

According to the ordinance: "(D) Signs sponsored by municipal, school, civic, and other non-profit organizations, provided that the signs are only displayed in

• See BANNERS page 33

## Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
65-45°F	67-45°F	69-46°F

## Students enjoy day at the farm



On Wednesday, Oct. 10, Ms. McClellan's kindergarten class and Ms. Sizemore's first-grade class spent the day at Denver Downs Dairy Farm in Anderson, S.C. They fed the goats, played in hay mounds, rode in a "cow train," took a hay ride and picked pumpkins in the pumpkin patch. Since Ms. McClellan was in the hospital, substitute Ashley Coppage accompanied the students. See story below. See more class photos on page 15.

Photo by Ashley Coppage

## Nasty bug causes havoc

By Sally Hanson  
Reporter

Landing in the hospital due to a minor cut isn't very common but it can happen especially since many organisms have become resistant to common antibiotics.

On Wednesday, Oct. 3, as Highlands School kindergarten teacher Julie McClellan opened a bottle of vitamins she slit her thumb on the plastic seal. That minor paper-like cut landed her in the hospital for seven days and left her with the possibility of needing skin grafts and surgery.

After she cut her thumb, which bled very little, she wrapped

it in a paper towel and went on to school thinking nothing more about it.

By Thursday afternoon, her thumb was sore and had stiffened and Julie was experiencing bouts of nausea. Since she had to see the doctor on another matter that day, she mentioned the problem with her thumb. The doctor agreed it was infected and a round of antibiotics was prescribed. Later, Dale Thompson, who was at the Main Street Pharmacy where she filled the prescription told her she didn't look very good.

Friday night Dale stopped by  
• See BUGS page 26

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## Community unites in fight against drugs

At the Oct. 17 Town Board meeting, Mayor Don Mullen proclaimed Oct. 22-26 Red Ribbon Week.

Red Ribbon Week is a nationally recognized vehicle for communities to make a commitment to drug prevention and education and living drug-free lives. The ultimate goal is the creation of drug free America.

"I think as a town and community we should support this in hopes that it may eventually decrease drug use," said Mullen.

Red Ribbon Week commemorates the sacrifice made by DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who died at the hands of drug traffickers in Mexico while fighting the battle against illegal drugs.

In Highlands, Red Ribbon Week will be commemorated at Highlands School. Students, teachers, administrators, staff and the Highlands Police Department will be participating in activities centered around the drug prevention theme every day.

On Monday, Oct. 22, Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell and Student Resource Officer Ron Castle will give all students and teachers a red ribbon and bracelet to wear every day of the week; teachers will hang a red ribbon outside their room; students will hang an anti-drug sign on the fence around the track; "Drugs are garbage" signs will be placed on trash cans; each day will begin with a fact

• See DRUGS page 6



# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • LETTERS •

### Town Board arbitrary with its decisions

Dear Editor,

As a regular user of the Highlands Rec Park gym, I found an interesting sign on the back door on Wednesday, Oct. 10./

It read: "CLOSED to Basketball Wed. Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>-Sun. Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>."

Recently, the Highlands Playhouse Antique Show was denied use of the gym. Why? Because the basketball players wouldn't have any place to go.

Four days two weeks ago versus four days this week. Interesting isn't it?

I understand the Antique Show would have used paid security while the craft show used city employees being paid overtime.

The Antique Show would have brought hotel and restaurant business to Highlands. However, the Town Board didn't think that to be important.

Hopefully, the November election will provide Highlands with a Town Board that's more interested in the entire community rather than simply serving the special interests that they seem to be focused on now.

Bob Tietze  
Highlands

### Is Macon County anti-business?

Dear Editor,

What will a new county fitness center say to persons looking to start a business in this community?

Several commissioners have been asked at various public forums if the commissioners had thought about the possibility that the new Rec Plex would run the present fitness center out of business. The answer was 'yes' on each occasion.

The commissioners have said further that it was never their intent to run anyone out of business. Some answer. Can't they do any better than that? Didn't the county want to build a nursing home facility a few years ago? And would a county nursing home have been in direct competition with the two existing private nursing homes in the area and put those businesses in jeopardy?

Again, is this county anti-business? And if so, are they pro-big-government?

Why not hang up a sign and say "new business not welcome because we are anti-business"?

Norman Roberts  
Franklin

### School board regrets mistake

Dear Editor,

There has been much talk about the legitimacy of the school board marketing the school board referendum. Yes, we are legitimate with the marketing of the referendum.

The situation that brought the "legitimacy" question up involved the requirement for me/the school board to fill out campaign forms with the Board of Elections as a result of having the "Yes" checked on our signs, swaying the voters in one specific direction. There must be a "Paid for by the..." included on the billboards and pamphlets that has now been disclosed.

At first I was taken back as this was news to me as I have participated in three school bond campaigns and never had a formal complaint filed against me or the Board of Education for attempting to generate support to build schools.

However, once this was brought to

my attention, a team was assembled at the central office to assist with getting the appropriate paperwork completed at the Board of Elections.

Our parent and business community response and demonstration of support was overwhelming!

Although once we had the appropriate paperwork in hand we had 10 days to have all documents completed and turned in, all required paperwork was filed with the Board of Elections on the same day.

I am very appreciative of this being brought out to ensure we are within the requirements of the Board of Elections and all campaign laws.

We do have an invoice in the amount of \$1,382.50 from Sellers Signs paid out of the allocation the Board had approved for educating the public.

Through donations, the "Citizens for Better Schools of Macon County" is reimbursing the school system for this invoice and will be covering all costs associated with the bond marketing initiative. The dollars allocated by the school board in August will continue to be available for other efforts to "educate the public" regarding the school bond referendum. We now have a much better understanding about how to file for election campaigns as well as how to design marketing strategies to avoid

future issues or complaints.

Dan Brigman  
Macon County Schools  
Superintendent

### Author, not issue, under attack

Dear Editor,

You recently published two letters which attacked columnist Katie Brugger for her article "Soldier Gods." I say "attacked Ms. Brugger" instead of "attacked the points made by Ms. Brugger" because the authors of the letters, Colette Clark and Jolene Niblack, resort to a favorite ruse of the right: launching insulting personal attacks against anyone holding a different opinion while failing to address the actual issues. Conservatives embrace the ad hominem argument because they are so regularly unable to debate issues on their own merits.

This is an example of the old trial lawyer adage: "When the law is against you argue the evidence. When the evidence is against you argue the law. When the law and the evidence are against you give the opposing counsel hell!" The first half of Ms. Brugger's column is devoted to cataloging the hypocrisy of Republicans screaming "foul" at the Moveon.org ad which questioned the impartiality of General Petraeus' Iraq report. These sanctimonious hypocrites act as though their own party's truly loathsome vilification of decorated and wounded war veterans Max Cleland and John Kerry had never happened. Remember those "purple heart" band-aids the right wing thought so amusing at the last Republican National Convention? This POINT constitutes one half of Ms. Brugger's column-the POINT which Ms. Clark and Ms. Niblack completely (and conveniently) ignore in their angry diatribes ("Jane Fonda's pal!" "Traitor!"). As noted earlier, when the evidence and the law are against you...denigrate and distract.

By the way, the wild (and completely irrelevant) charge that John Kerry was "dishonorably discharged" is just more unsubstantiated right wing folklore and should be relegated to the "swift boating" category of character assassination so cherished by fans of Karl Rove, Ann Coulter, Rush Limbaugh, and other hate-mongers of the day. Ms. Brugger's POINT was that John Kerry was on a Navy patrol

### LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or 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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## It's pumpkin picking time!



Brittany Nicole Chastain, Carol and Earl Nix's granddaughter and Elaine and Neal Chastain's daughter, has selected her pumpkin and is ready for Halloween.

## • OBITUARIES •

### Arthur Lennard Aspinwall

Arthur Lennard Aspinwall, 54, of Highlands died Tuesday, October 16, 2007 at the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center.

Art was born in Good Samaritan Hospital in West Palm Beach, FL in 1953, the son of the late David B. Aspinwall and Patricia Wilmot Aspinwall. He graduated from Boca Raton High School in 1971 and went to the University of Florida in Gainesville where he was a member of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity, Florida Blue Key Leadership and Scholastic Honorary Fraternity and served as Student Senate President for 2 years. He graduated from the University of Florida in 1976 with a BS in Journalism and Criminal Justice earning the Outstanding Male Graduate award. Art received his JD from Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham, AL in 2000.

Mr. Aspinwall practiced law in Palm Beach County and Volusia County Florida. He and his wife, Barbara, lived in DeLand, FL, before moving to Highlands in July, 1987 where he worked as a full-time carpenter in his construction company, Dwelling Place Construction Company. Art was an avid hunter and member of the NRA, a Libertarian in political affiliation. He and his family are members of Community Bible Church and were active participants in the Highlands School Athletic Booster Club.

Art is survived by his wife of 32 years and their four children: Ashley and Chris Barron of Atlanta, GA, AJ and Jordan Aspinwall of Lexington, KY, Angela and Jason Aspinwall, his mother, Patricia Aspinwall, and brother and wife, David and Vicki Aspinwall, all of Highlands; his sister and husband, Bob and Teri McNelis and family of Longwood, FL..

A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, October 20 at 11 a.m. at Community Bible Church in Highlands. There is a memorial fund in existence at Community Bible Church.

### Elizabeth "Betty" Webb Ponds

Elizabeth "Betty" Webb Ponds, a resident of Highlands, NC since 1981, died Monday, October 8, 2007 in the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital after a short but valiant fight with pneumonia. She was 82 years young.

Betty and her twin brother Robert "Bobby" Lewis Webb were born in Walhalla, SC on December 12, 1924. Betty is survived by her husband of 61 years, Joseph Michael Ponds.

A small family service was held Friday, October 12. To know her was to love her. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

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Perfect mountain styled home in Highlands Falls Country Club. Vaulted and beamed ceilings in the great room, high quality Kitchen Aid kitchen, separate dining room with wet bar and wine cooler, 2 BR/ 2BA on the main level plus a large family room and a 3<sup>rd</sup> BR and 3<sup>rd</sup> BA in the lower walk-out level. A 1 car garage and golf course frontage. \$695,000



Mountain contemporary home in Highlands Falls Country Club. A large great room with lots of glass, extra large vaulted kitchen, wet bar, master suite with attached office, his/ her baths, 2 private guest suites, 2 car garage plus a great deck. Did we mention the gorgeous mountain view? \$865,000.



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## • LAUGHING AT LIFE •

### Necessity is the invention of motherhood, or something like that

Now that I have invented the perfect bird feeder, I don't know what to do with the rest of my life. I consider that accomplishment the ultimate of all my life's achievements. Millions have been spent on research to achieve the perfect feeder and they all failed. Har, har, I did it for seven dollars.

I invented my feeder system years ago but have waited until now to proclaim my success.

During the last five years, not one squirrel, raccoon, flying squirrel, bear or chipmunk has tasted even one seed from my feeder. Like zoning directors, critters come and they go. Only fat, overfed birds live here.

If you would like a schematic of my system, please submit your check in the amount of \$500,000, tax and seeds not included, to me in care of the "I Sell Bridges Foundation." Should a seed-eater somehow invade the system after your purchase, a full refund will be offered, but not given.

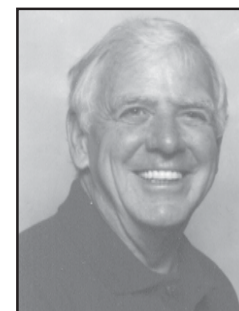
With that project completed, where do I go next? I know, I know, there's a large segment of readers who would like to see me jump into a handbasket and go...well, you know where. If you would like for that to happen, please submit your check for \$500,000, to me, in care of the "Promise Them Anything Political Ploy Group" and poof, you'll never see me again. Of course, my column will still haunt you each week.

Also, don't bother to send me a list of nearby buildings to jump from as I have 12 copies already. I need something less permanent.

Actually, I was thinking about becoming an honest politician, an oxymoron of course, but I don't live in one place long enough. I know I could be honest because I used to turn down huge amounts of bribe money as a narcotics officer in Miami so I know I could easily turn away a bunch of fat cat sleazy, silver tongued, corporate presidents with bribe money.

While I will admit that \$500,000 checks have not been flowing in at a rapid pace for my bird feeder system, the mere fact I have invented such a system is miraculous.

There's more! Still on paper and coming soon is my impenetrable garbage



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback  
is encouraged!  
email:

[askfredanything@aol.com](mailto:askfredanything@aol.com)

can that will send bears straight to their shrinks. The see-through cans have many tiny air holes to allow the aroma of your rotting tuna fish cans to exit. The lid screws on like your mayonnaise jar. You fill the can with chewed on rib and chicken bones, watermelon rinds and other yummy bear food.

When Mr. Bear arrives, he can see and smell the yummy delights but can't get the lid off. Even worse, when he tips the can, a recording device

is triggered, sending out loud sounds of many large barking dogs. Poor Yogi is left to sit at the edge of the woods and stare at his would-be dinner.

He will join a drove of squirrels, raccoons, and chipmunks already sitting there, frustrated at their inability to penetrate my bird feeder. The garbage can runs on two double A batteries, not included. I think this invention will be even more spectacular than the guy who invented the Saddam Hussein talking urinal cake.

By winter, my mountain critters will be more aggravated than a tourist having to move his car off Main Street in the middle of a shopping spree, more frustrated than a commissioner trying to get everyone to agree on a park, more puzzled than a merchant trying to figure out our zoning rules, more angry...well, you get the picture. Here's a side note: Refer all calls concerning Pine Street Park to 1-800-dog-poop.

At some point, I realize I will have to stop inventing stuff and retire but not yet because I am at the brink of inventing a way to cheat at bridge, something I desperately need. So far I have invented a tiny 2-way radio that looks like a harmless hearing aid that half the people at bridge are already wearing anyway and a video camera shaped like a pen for my shirt pocket.

Now all I need is for Omar Sharif, the washed up, has-been camel dude with the sinister smile, to sit in his car outside the game and tell me what to play. After writing him three times, he has not responded to my idea but he did ask about my bird feeder. Maybe we could make a trade?

Going home? Read Fred's column all year at:  
<http://www.highlandsinfo.com/newspaperdownload.htm>



## • ANOTHER VIEW •

### 'Blackwater' tactics go unheeded

Years ago, someone compiled a list of the most beautiful words in the English language. "Mother" and "flamingo" made the list. Mercenary didn't. My first exposure to mercenaries was in Sister Irma Loretta's fifth grade American history class. You may recall that during the American

Revolution, Prussian soldiers were employed by England to fight the Colonials, and were, forever after, referred to as Prussian mercenaries. Sister believed that the employment status of the Germans along with her deep belief that most, if not all, of them were Lutheran justified George Washington's sneak, excuse me surprise attack, across the Delaware River on Christmas Eve. Never one to be bound by consistency, Sister felt that the brilliant surprise, excuse me, sneak attack by the Japanese on Pearl Harbor, was dirty pool. Perspective is everything.

Today, we are the ones who employ mercenaries. It was one thing to out-source military cafeterias to Radisson and just about everything else to Haliburton. It is another to entrust the security of supply convoys and senior diplomats to mercenaries, excuse me, private security contractors.

Charges by the government of Iraq against Blackwater USA and a demand that their agents be expelled from the country followed a recent shooting incident in which several Iraqis were killed. The deaths brought the shadow army into the bright light of scrutiny. Blackwater predictably claimed that the shootings were appropriate, and defensive in nature.

Equally predictable is the Iraqi claim that the victims were civilians and that fire from Blackwater was pre-emptive, aggressive, and murderous. We may never know the truth. However, a recent report from the House Oversight committee sheds some light on the operation of Blackwater. In more than 80% of shootings involving Blackwater, the company's employees fired first, a violation of their contract which limits their use of fire power to defensive fire to protect them and those under their protection. Of course, they are employed by an administration whose pre-emptive invasion of Iraq was described as "defensive." The wording of the contract might need clarification.

Two weeks ago, I met a private security contractor who has worked in both Afghanistan and Iraq. He is a former Marine with family in the area who came



**Dr. Henry Salzarulo**

**Feedback is encouraged.**

**email:**

**hsalzarulo@aol.com**

to our clinic for knee surgery before returning to Afghanistan. During the course of our operating room conversation, he said that everybody involved in security in Iraq and Afghanistan, knows that Blackwater is out of control. He claimed that they are very different from the other private security contractors working for the U.S. government. He was employed by a competitor, but I have no reason to doubt him, especially in the light of recent revelations.

A few days later I learned that the husband of one of our employees has signed on for duty in Iraq. He is a four-year veteran of the 82nd Airborne Division, who attended Clemson University for a short time following his discharge. According to his wife, he must get his need for adventure out of his system. There aren't many jobs that provide both adventure and close to \$200,000 per year. Her demeanor, as she revealed her husband's plan to me, was similar to that of a mother whose child insists on playing in the mud in his church clothes. She betrayed mostly weary resignation, along with a hint of pride and a touch of fear.

Two years ago, I met a retired Belgian Lieutenant Colonel in a bar in Port-au-Prince. The Hotel Montana is one of those bars where foreigners gather for companionship and drink. Michel works for an English company, Risk Control, which had been responsible for security in west of Bagdad before Blackwater took over. Risk Control had refused to escort a convoy through Fallujah because it considered the area too dangerous. Blackwater accepted the mission, which ended with the death and mutilation of four of its employees, and triggered a revenge attack which resulted in the deaths of three dozen Americans and hundreds of Iraqis.

The story of the, poorly planned, bungled mission and subsequent ambush is known to few Americans. We remember only the frightful images of Americans dangling from a bridge over the Euphrates and of American bodies being dragged through the streets. My friend, Michel, told me none of this. It is public knowledge, the subject of a Congressional report. I mention him only because he seems absolutely professional. He speaks Pakistani, is familiar with the culture and customs of the Middle East, and has a keen

• See ANOTHER VIEW page 42

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## Wine Tasting & Silent Auction at Highlands Wine & Cheese Thursday, Oct. 18 at 6 p.m.

**F**unds raised from the tasting event and silent auction will go toward travel-related expenses of the pastors of Highlands United Methodist Church when they take a group of 24 on a 10-day tour of the Holy Land during Passover in Galilee, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Nazareth and other wonderful, historical and spiritual locations.

The group will fly nonstop to Tel Aviv from Atlanta. Silent auctions items include custom clothing, culinary items and merchandise from other shops!

**An anonymous donor is matching the amount raised 100%. The goal is \$6,000. Come have some fun for a good cause!**

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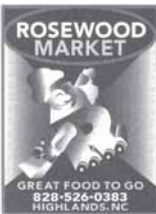
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## ... DRUGS continued from page 1

about drugs; and an essay/poetry/poster contest will kickoff for students.

Tuesday, Oct. 23, will be "Sock it to Drugs" day where everyone will wear crazy socks to school.

On Wednesday, Oct. 24, "Pledge to Live Drug Free" pledge sheet will be posted on the bulletin board outside the school office and teachers can bring students to sign the pledge during the day; if posters drawn for the contest are ready, they will be displayed on the board, too.

On Thursday, Oct. 25, to "Lick the Drug and Alcohol Problem," all students and teachers will get red suckers from Principal Jetter and Assistant Principal Draheim.

Friday, Oct. 26, is "Red Day" and "Walk Away From Drugs" day when everyone will wear something red and walk away from drugs by walking a lap around the track during recess or PE.

The Town of Highlands Red Ribbon Proclamation reads:

"Whereas, Alcohol and other drug abuse in this nation have reached epidemic stages; and

Whereas, It is imperative that visible, unified prevention education efforts by community members be launched to eliminate the demand for drugs; and

Whereas, The national Red Ribbon Campaign offers citizens the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to drug-free lifestyles (no use of illegal drugs, no illegal use of legal drugs); and

Whereas, substance abuse is particularly damaging to one of our most valuable resources, our children, and a contributing factor in the three leading causes of death for teenagers – accidents, homicides, and suicides; and

Whereas, The national Red Ribbon Campaign will be celebrated all across America during Red Ribbon Week, October 23-31, 2007; and;

Whereas, It is the goal of Red Ribbon Week to involve families, schools, businesses, government, churches, law enforcement, media, and service organizations in all aspects of this campaign and establish an atmosphere that supports awareness, education, and on-going initiatives to prevent illegal drug use; and;

Whereas, Red Ribbon Week promotes family and individual responsibilities for living healthy, drug-free lifestyles, without illegal drugs or the illegal use of legal drugs, and;

Now, therefore, Be it resolved that I, Don Mullen, Mayor of the Town of Highlands, do hereby proclaim October 23-31, 2007 as Red Ribbon Week in this town and encourage all citizens, businesses, public and private agencies, media, religious and educational institutions to wear and display red ribbons and participate in drug-free activities throughout this week, joining the rest of the country in promoting the Red Ribbon Celebration and a drug-free America."



## ... AUDIT continued from page 1

plateau, the town maintains a healthy fund balance to fund potential repairs and keep the town running during a catastrophe.

One downside is the town's water-sewer enterprise fund.

"Your water-sewer fund barely made money. When you compare revenues with expenditures you barely broke even," said Starnes. "The Local Government Commission has made it very clear, that it expects enterprise funds like water-sewer to stand on their own."

Property taxes and state and federal grant funds finance most of the town's activities, but its business-type activities are those the town charges customers to provide water, sewer and electric services – called enterprise funds.

After years of holding fees steady, the town increased water-sewer fees in 2006 by about 50% but since the town waited so long to do so, there isn't extra money in the fund for improvements.

"You have no cash in that fund for upgrades," said Starnes. With state and federal requirements for water-sewer getting tighter every year, he said the fund should have extra money in it.

"I know you hate to increase fees, but it's not healthy for an enterprise fund not to make money," said Starnes. "You can go along OK for a while, but if you have to make upgrades the fund starts going downhill and it's hard to recoup."

He said his firm found no "findings," and internal controls said to be missing during last year's audit are now in place.

For two years now, the ABC store hasn't allocated funds to the town. With changes on the horizon – either relocation to another leased space or construction of a new store – funds normally allocated the town have been put in a capital reserve fund. The ABC Board said it could legally do that.

Starnes said it's not legal.

At Wednesday night's meeting, the ABC Board requested a letter from the town which the ABC Board could submit to the state verifying the town was allowing it to withhold funds. Since Starnes was waiting to make his audit presentation, he spoke to the matter.

"You should be stern with the ABC Board," said Starnes. "Maybe not this one, but ABC Boards are notorious for coming up with reasons not to turn over the money to counties or municipalities. There is a very strict statute formula which says they can keep enough for working capital but the rest must be turned over."

He said they need to give the allotted funds to the town and if they need it at some point to fund capital expansion then the town can always give it back.

After Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce Director Bob Kieltyka spoke about the potential loss of Highlands' room tax money, Starnes spoke to that issue, too.

"Tourism Development Associations and the money they represent are political hotbeds," he said. "They're not all bad, but

since this is a new concept for Macon County, you should make sure that some home-base funding should be provided Highlands."

At Wednesday's meeting, Kieltyka read a statement requesting the Town Board to take an active role in lending its voice against the county's effort to take room tax money away from Highlands.

"Would a Franklin-based tourism board be likely to promote Highlands as effectively as the chamber is currently doing and has done for the last 21 years? We think not," read Kieltyka. "It is potentially another example of tax dollars collected in Highlands leaving the community not to return."

Town of Highlands Financial Highlights:

- The assets of Town of Highlands exceeded its liabilities at the close of the fiscal year by \$30,370,795 (*net assets*).

- The government's total net assets increased by \$480,295.

- As of the close of the current fiscal year, Town of Highlands' governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$2,293,995, an increase of \$7,395 in comparison with the prior year. Approx-

imately 82 percent of this total amount, or \$1,877,379, is available for spending at the government's discretion as an *unreserved fund balance*.

- At the end of the current fiscal year, unreserved fund balance for the General Fund was \$1,877,379, or 43 percent of total general fund expenditures for the fiscal year.

Net assets may serve over time as one useful indicator of a government's financial condition.

The town's net assets increased by \$1,064,397 for the fiscal year ended June

30, 2007. The largest portion of net assets (79 %) reflects the town's investment in capital assets (land, buildings, and equipment), less any related debt still outstanding that was issued to acquire those items.

The town uses these capital assets to provide services to citizens; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. A portion of the town's net assets (<1%) represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used.

The remaining balance of \$6,172,186 is unrestricted.

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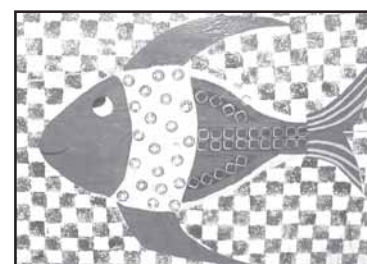
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## • REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

### Chocolate or Vanilla?

I wrote a column a few weeks ago called "Soldier Gods" which obviously provoked some readers, judging from the letters to the editor. The point of my column was that free speech, one of our most important rights as Americans, doesn't stop at the military. I asked, "When did questioning the motives of a soldier become an unthinkable act, tantamount to treason?" I suggested that perhaps this was a sign of encroaching totalitarianism in this country.

The letter writers seemed to think they had cleverly slapped me down but in fact they proved my point. I in no way attacked the military in that article, I only pointed out that in a free society no one is above questioning, criticism, satire, or ridicule. Yet the writers interpreted this assertion of free speech as an attack on the military, and in addition made it clear that they believe soldiers are better than the rest of us.

Another way the writers showed a lack of respect for free speech was in their suggestion that if I was going to write political opinion from a "liberal" point of view I should just keep quiet.

And there is an even more insidious way these women may suppress freedom of speech. Publisher Kim Lewicki has created a vibrant forum for ideas in Highlands' Newspaper, but by attacking a columnist with such angry sarcasm, these letter writers will make others think twice about freely stating their views about the serious issues facing this country.

I had also stated in that article that I was disgusted with the political system in this country and I thought I'd expand on that this week. I have felt this way for some time, but a new idea started crystallizing recently when I was surveying the 2008 presidential field.

I think that even the most conservative person reading this column will agree with me on this point: What a pathetic choice we have ahead of us in 2008! Actually I think this time around the Republican field is the most pitiful. I can't imagine how I would feel if I were a Republican and I had to get excited about Rudy Giuliani or Fred Thompson as my candidate.

The last time I was at Bryson's Food Store I bought some food for the feral cat family now living in our yard, and I counted 23 varieties/flavors of dry cat food, many with different size bags to choose from. In the cereal aisle I counted



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k-brugger@hotmail.com

a whopping 150 selections! And this isn't counting cereal you have to cook. I wouldn't want to even try to guess how many different bottles of wine they sell.

But when we go into the voting booth we have only two options; it's equivalent to going into an ice cream parlor and the only choices are vanilla or chocolate.

Where are strawberry, and chocolate-chip cookie dough, and chunky monkey?

How could two political parties possibly represent all of the various political opinions of the American people?

Could this possibly be a factor in the low voter turnout in this country: people do not feel like there is a political party that represents their interests?

Why do we only have two political parties? I have never asked that question before. There's certainly nothing in the Constitution about political parties. In the little research I have done on this so far, I have learned that it is our winner-take-all electoral system that has brought us to this state.

With winner-take-all elections it is a waste of time to try and start a third party as that is a guaranteed way to put the candidate you most oppose in office. For example, Ross Perot siphoned off enough Republican votes in 1992 to put Bill Clinton in the White House, and Ralph Nader is a significant part of the reason that we have George W. Bush as president today.

Many countries around the world use a different system: proportional representation. These countries have a parliamentary system of government and multiple political parties, many representing small constituencies. Oftentimes no party wins a majority in an election so the government is made up of coalitions of smaller parties. This seems a much more democratic system, much more closely reflecting the interests and beliefs of the people.

I can remember what I heard about this form of government in school: it is unstable, the government is always changing, our system is much better because we have planned elections and we don't have a new government every year like Italy. But how could this political system be any worse than the polarized stalemate existing in the U.S. today?

Sixty-six countries use proportional representation — out of a total of 192 (or

• See BRUGGER page 32



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## • HIS & HERS •

### Desperate Housecats

**I**t's the kind of thing you never expect to happen to you. I never dreamed I'd be walking into the post office, and seeing a "wanted" poster of a loved one on the wall. The loved one in question? A stocky, handsome redhead with a splendid moustache, hair beginning to show a bit of white – a

real couch potato who loves to sit and spend hours in his favorite chair watching TV. Oh, yes. And he's a cat.

I knew something was wrong that morning, when Orion didn't come to finish off the last of my cereal, our usual breakfast tradition. Still, it didn't bother me too much. Perhaps he had found a sunny place around the house, and decided to sleep in. When John returned from Hendersonville, I mentioned that our Big Boy was nowhere to be found. Enlisting him in the search, we began to check every room. That's when we found the open door. Relatives had come to visit recently, and we'd taken the table outside. Somehow, the porch door hadn't been completely shut, and had blown open. Both cats had gotten out. Weasel ate her fill of grass, and had come in to throw up in the house. Orion had taken off for parts unknown.

Some folks think it's cruel to lock cats up indoors. I can't say I feel 100% good about it. Maman always used to say that a cat should be let outdoors to "live a cat's life," so I grew up thinking that being outdoors was just part of being a cat. Unfortunately, this led to the death of three of our cats: Tiger, my first cat, caught feline leukemia; Smokie and Ben were hit by cars. These are two common hazards faced by outdoor cats. Poison and cruelty are out there and are too horrible to contemplate. Those of us who live in the mountains have additional issues. We have bears, bobcats, and hawks on our property. My friend Mary Lou and I spied a large fox on the way home from choir practice. Who knows how any of these wild animals would view a nice, well-fed housecat? These are just the dangers to your pet. Consider the threat your cat is to birds.

According to The American Bird Conservancy, there are an estimated 90



**Michelle Mead & John Armor**  
**michiemead@aol.com**  
**John\_Armor@yale.edu**

million cats in the U.S., and the majority of them spend at least part of their time outdoors. Quite honestly, I'd never been much of a bird person before I moved to Highlands. A resident of Paris, then New York, I saw birds the way most Big City people do – as flying rats. This is an easy

conclusion to reach when the only bird you see all day is the pigeon who wakes you up at 4:30 a.m. to poop on your window sill. Becoming a local here has changed my mind. So has having a bird feeder. How many mornings I've spent, enchanted, while blue birds, blue jays, cardinals, and a host of other magnificent birds lined up on our porch railings, awaiting their turn at the bird feeder! And the joy of discovering a pileated woodpecker! What a treat for a girl from the 1950s, who grew up watching Woody Woodpecker cartoons.

While taking a rest the other day in our Pawley's Island hammock, I saw hawks doing large, lazy circles in the sky above me. I did what any normal person would do; I joined the local Audubon Society.

But back to the missing cat. I went online. I read every article I could about finding a missing pet. We went to the local animal shelters. We put up posters. We drove around, and talked to neighbors. We contacted a local newspaper and the radio station. We waited. Three days passed. I cried my heart out, imagining Orion out there somewhere - cold, hungry, possibly injured, and unable to limp his way home. My heart had gone out to every pet owner whose "missing" poster I had seen in town. Now, it was our turn. People offered suggestions, affection, prayers, love. I realized how a lost pet strikes the heart of everyone who has ever loved and lost something dear. I thought I'd moved into an area where people were good and kind. Now I knew it.

I kept a vigil at the window of our downstairs bathroom, which had a clear view of the front porch, where we had put Orion's food and water dishes. On the evening of the third day of Orion going AWOL, I saw an orange

• See HIS & HERS page 30

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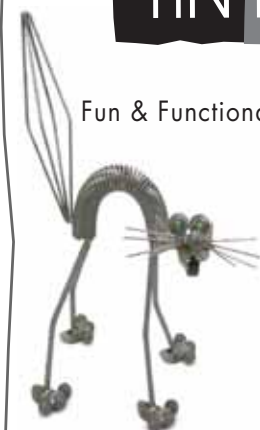
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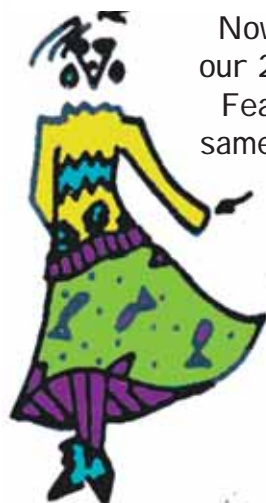
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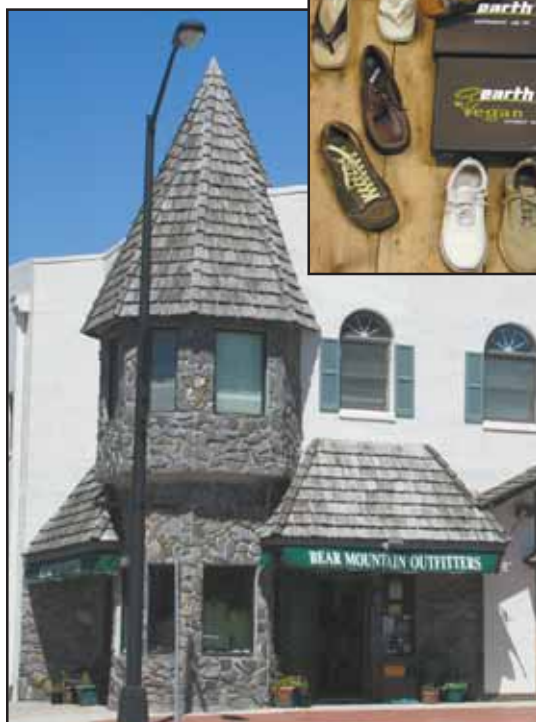
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## • COACH'S CORNER •

### Random thoughts and observations from the week-end

How about the Colorado Rockies—what an unbelievable run by the men in purple and black. The amazing thing about this run is that it is occurring because of an incredible combination of skill and luck. The poor Diamondbacks never had a chance in this series, it's almost like they were resigned to their fate from the very beginning of the series. Just a great job of pitching from the Rockies unheralded starters and their dominant bullpen. Matt Holliday is definitely getting my seal of approval for MVP, and manager Clint Hurdle is playing with house money right now. Case in point—in the series clinching game 4, Hurdle pulls his starter for a pinch hitter *in the fourth inning*. Not only that, the pinch hitter is a rookie who promptly comes up with a double and makes Hurdle look like a sooper genius.

College football is officially (in the immortal words of Kris Kross) Wiggety-Whack. Two more top three teams lost last weekend, and the elite programs are dropping faster than my brother's jaw at Miami Beach. LSU lost a classic game at Kentucky when Les Miles (who last week was called gambling, gutsy, bold and every other adjective describing huge...um...fortitude) called a fourth down play that failed. LSU's defense looked mighty ordinary in the commonwealth -- I hope they are ready for Auburn's special brand of cro-magnon football this week. South Florida is my number one right now, which means that they will fail miserably tonight facing Rutgers. College football...who needs a playoff?

In other news, the Patriots continued their quest to become completely unbearable as they dismantled Dallas on national television. How embarrassing was the game? I was actually pulling for THE COWBOYS, which is like rooting for people who drive Hummers and have bad plastic surgery. Despite my newfound hatred for the Patriots, you have to admire Tom Brady because he has ridiculous accuracy for a guy who was a 6<sup>th</sup> round pick in the NFL draft. It's amazing how some of the best literally come out of nowhere, while some top picks just simply disappear. (I'm slowly looking at you JaMarcus Russell)

Some other quick and simple observations.

• Steven O. Spurrier so rules. After escaping North Carolina with a W he not only gave credit to the Tarheels after the



Ryan Potts  
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game ("they kicked our butts") he then ticked them off again after the game! (This was a good win for both Duke and South Carolina) The Ball Coach continues to impress.

• Boise St and Nevada, 3 OT's, 120+ points, two really hungover Defensive Coordinators

• Curt Schilling just doesn't have the smoke on his fastball that used to make him a dominant postseason

pitcher.

• I really like watching Colorado pitcher Ubaldo Jimenez. He throws killer heat, uses his breaking ball and doesn't ever seem to get rattled. I even like his first name, although Ubaldo sounds like something mean I would say to tease people who are follically challenged.

• Bill Callahan and Dennis Franchione -- call my pops -- you need a good real estate agent right about now.

• Only 10 days left till the start of basketball practice...my heart is aflutter.

This weekend be sure to check out Kentucky-Florida, which promises to be a terrific matchup both in the national and SEC standings. You also may want to watch for the showdown between the two Heisman frontrunners (IMO) Andre Woodson and Tim Tebow.

## More about truck traffic on the Gorge Road

This requested information for preparation of the article about tractor-trailer truck traffic on the Gorge Road arrived via email from Scott Cook, Division 14 traffic engineer, after the article was published in the Oct. 11 issue.

"U.S. 64 between Franklin and Highlands is designated as trucks or other vehicles of a gross vehicle weight in excess of 20,000 lbs. shall be prohibited. However, if these vehicles have a specific delivery along this route, they are legally allowed to use US 64.

A member of the NC Highway Patrol said the weight limit was 80,000 pounds. We now know it's 20,000.

To report near misses or accidents call the North Carolina Highway Patrol Motor Carrier Division at 1-800-445-1772.

— Kim Lewicki



# • CONSERVATIVE POV •

## Sometimes life just isn't fair

When you forget why it was you left south Florida to come to this wonderful place, a short trip to Miami, in this case for our son's wedding, will remind you.

I opened the Saturday's Miami Herald to see what important things are going on.

Two-thirds of the front page, Section A, from top to nearly bottom, covered a subject I wasn't familiar with. The headline read "Hannah's Hot Ticket." Wow, I figured Hannah must be someone of great importance to rate front page of a major city newspaper.

Imagine my surprise when I found out that Hannah was a 14 year-old actress/singer whose picture looked suspiciously like one of the current pop-tarts in her earlier days. Hannah Montana is a hot item. She's on tour and the tickets for her show will set you back \$230 a pop. Well, good for Hannah, really Miley Cyrus, who is off to such an auspicious beginning. But the story isn't Hannah/Miley. This is the beginning of the Herald's front-page coverage.

"Kim Snoke's daughter doesn't ask for much. Like most of her friends, 6-year old Amaiya is a huge Hannah Montana fan. So when the single mom from Kendall heard the Disney pop star was coming to the BankAtlantic Center in Sunrise, she vowed to get two tickets. The morning they went on sale, she showed up at a Coral Gables Spec's store three hours early and was second in line.

"But a regular mom was no match for computer hackers, scalpers, ticket brokers and a lottery system that sent her to the back of the line. The concert sold out in minutes. Snoke didn't have a chance. 'This the only thing she has asked me for. I was devastated that I could not fill this wish for her,' Snoke said. 'I walked away from Ticketmaster in tears.' Snoke joins thousands of parents and kids across the country who have been shut out of the 54-city tour."

Well, if this single mom is devastated over not being able to indulge her 6-year old princess, perhaps a serious dose of misfortune might bring some perspective to the matter. I don't wish misery on anyone, but I do have to wonder what drives parents to risk life and limb fighting for the last cabbage patch doll on the shelf, or to sit outside a store for three days so they would be sure to get the latest video game device at a cost of several hundred dollars for their little



**Don Swanson**  
Feedback is encouraged. Email  
swansonson@dnnet.net

darling.

Then, on page one of section B appears the following under the headline "Removal of boy's 'grillz' leads to inquiry at school." What? The sub-headline: "The Broward school district is considering whether elementary students may be allowed to wear ornamental gold teeth." The story is accompanied by a picture of a 10-year-old African-American boy showing-off his gold grill.

"Broward school district officials are investigating whether a Pompano Beach elementary guidance counselor removed a student's ornamental gold teeth by force early last week. The guidance counselor has been temporarily reassigned during the inquiry into the Sept. 24 incident at Charles Drew Elementary, the district's chief investigator, Joe Melita, said Monday.

"The mouth jewelry is not banned by the Broward school district's code of conduct, but under its policies, any item that school employees find distracting at school can be removed.

"His stepfather, Kevin Stokes, said he bought the gold caps for about \$500 as a reward for the 10-year-old's academic performance. Vincent was voted school president and said he never gets in trouble. Grillz have become popular in the last few years, spurred by rapper Nelly's hit of the same name"

So this is what passes for front page news in South Florida. And this is what passes for parenting these days. Call me prehistoric, but spending hundreds of dollars on concert tickets because your six-year old daughter wants to go (can't break them in as concert- goes too early) or spending hundreds of dollars on tooth-jewelry to reward a 10-year-old's success seems to be creating the frivolous young people that threaten our society tomorrow.

You think I'm kidding? I'm watching a television report about a Norristown, PA mother who bought her 14-year-old son a pistol and two rifles to add to his already huge arsenal of weapons. This was uncovered during an investigation of the teenager's plot to execute a Columbine-type attack on the local high school.

I'm not saying that any child that is overindulged will turn out to be a sociopath, but their values will be twisted and will create problems for them in the future.

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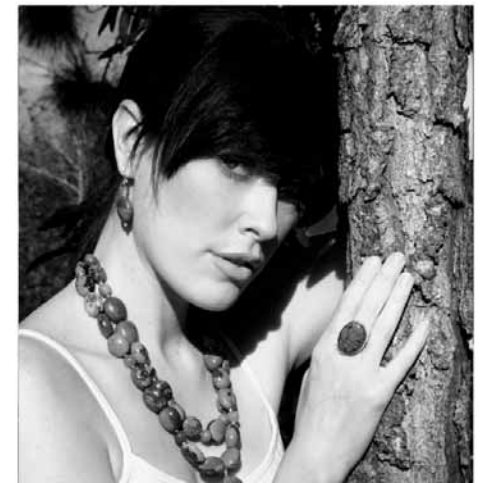
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**MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY** rated G  
Mon - Fri: 7  
Sat & Sun: (2), 7

**THE BRAVE ONE** rated R  
Mon - Fri: (4), 9  
Sat & Sun: (4), 9

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Patrick Taylor cuts the sections of maple that will be stored for a year before turning into works of art.  
Photos by Kim Lewicki

## Landmark tree to 'live' again

One very special maple tree in Highlands will have a reincarnation thanks to the efforts of local artists.

The maple tree at the entrance to the Bascom-Louise Gallery's building site, at the end of Oak Street, had been in decline for a number of years. In the past two years, one of the main trunk limbs had fallen. It was diseased and clearly suffering. After consulting with experts in the field, the tree was cut down this past week.

But that is not completely the end of the life of this tree. It will undergo a transformation and evolve into many works of art.

According to Pat Taylor, local artist and chair of the art center's facilities committee, diseased trees like the maple are highly desirable by wood turners and sculptors. Bacteria cause many of the diseases that infect trees within their trunks. In their assault on a tree, the bacteria actually cause the center core of the tree to develop bands

of colors ranging from deep black, and variations of browns, yellows, oranges, reds and even blues and greens. While these color bands are symptomatic of a diseased tree in decline, the color bands can become stunning patterns in the hands of an experienced wood artisan.

A healthy tree tends to have more con-

sistent coloration in their cores, resulting in grain and color patterns that are not as distinct and dramatic. That is why a wood turner, for example, will enthusiastically salvage the wood from a dead or declining tree and leave a healthy tree alone.

Major portions of the trunk of this maple have been cut into smaller sections and are now in storage for the coming year. When the time is right, wood artisans will take the diseased maple wood and transform these sections into turned bowls, vases and sculptures.

Earlier this summer, a cherry tree was removed from the pathway for the covered bridge that will be installed on the gallery site later this fall. The wood from this tree is being stored by Don Crebbs, an acclaimed Highlands wood turner. Crebbs will be shaping beautiful wood forms from the cherry tree in the months to come.

A critical part of the woodturning process is the curing, and preparation of the

wood before it is placed on the lathe for shaping. Many hours will be devoted to shaping and finishing the work before it is displayed in the gallery.

It may be well over a year before the wood from the maple tree is transformed into a work of

art, but the tree will see new life – and bring joy through art and nature.



Discolored center sections of the maple wood add character and visual interest to the finished wood.



## • FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

### There's no place like home

It is good to be back home in Highlands. My wife and I had a great trip to China and Tibet. While I had been to China before, but this was her first trip. My first trip 10 years ago was into the southern part of China when I took eight medical students into hospitals and orphanages in Kunming and Chuxiong to work along side Chinese nurses and doctors as we learned from each other. It was a great cultural experience for the kids.



Mayor Don Mullen

This time it was a different kind of trip although our group did run into a few medical problems, particularly when we were at an altitude which varied between 12,000 and 15,000 feet in Tibet. Some in our group suffered from altitude sickness and had to be seen in an emergency room. Other than that the trip was fascinating and quite instructive as to the life of present day Tibet and China.

China is exploding economically and if this continues may well surpass us in years to come. There is new construction everywhere with rapidly developing and improving infrastructure, and the people are both friendly and helpful and were quite willing now to dialogue with us on any issue. There are not the restrictions which existed on my first visit 10 years ago — there is more willingness to become a true partner in the global economy and culture. Our three weeks in China were most rewarding as we enjoyed beautiful scenery and wonderful cuisine all across the country, making six different flights in country on Chinese airplanes.

But it is good to get home. With all the traveling we have done over the years the jet lag coming from the Far East back to the USA is always the most challenging. But I think we are about there now and we are getting back into the swing of things in Highlands which I consider as beautiful as any place in the world. In Tibet we were truly on the top of the world but in Highlands, in different ways, we are also above all in beauty and serenity.

While I was away I am glad to see several good activities occurred. One, the town commissioners were able to meet with and have dialogue with the county commissioners. Over the years there has always been some tension between the town and the county, mostly caused by misunderstandings and miscommunications. The best way to overcome those kinds of difficulties is to meet face to face and discuss them

openly. That is what was done two weeks ago. Although there still remain some differences, it is a start to what I hope will be more meetings with the county board. When men and women of good will meet and discuss their differences, most of the time good things result. We on the Board of Commissioners in Highlands sincerely want a good relationship with our county commissioners, and we will

do all in our power to see that this happens.

There was also a good meeting of the public works committee with the NC Department of Transportation and our state senator, John Snow. The state will be turning over the roads of Hickory Hill, Chowan and Cullasaja to the town, and an estimate to pave these roads of \$286,000 has just been made by the DOT. Senator Snow has been sent this figure and will be trying to obtain these funds from state contingency funds so that we can finally achieve what we have been trying to do for years. We will be making every attempt to keep the residents of those areas well informed as to the plans and progress of this important project which will probably now begin in the spring of the year. We hope also to move ahead with Wyanock and Azalea, along with North Cobb as soon as we obtain right of ways to pave these roads "as they are" as much as is possible under the physical limitations of those roads. Hopefully that also can be accomplished next year.

Very soon this fall the state road of Chestnut Street will be re-paved and a sidewalk will be placed on the south side of the street from 4<sup>th</sup> St. to 5<sup>th</sup> St. Next year we hope to be able to add a sidewalk from 5<sup>th</sup> St to 6<sup>th</sup> St. and also put a sidewalk on 6<sup>th</sup> St. to Main.

### No burning!

Effective immediately, in conjunction with a statewide burning ban issued by the North Carolina Division of Forest Resources due to severe drought conditions, pursuant to Chapter 3 of the N.C. Fire Code Section 307 and Chapter 91 of the Macon County Code of Ordinances, the Macon county Fire Marshal's Office has prohibited open burning due to local conditions which make such fires hazardous.

Open burning will be prohibited until such time as adequate rainfall lessens the hazards associated with open burning.

— Warren Cabe  
Macon County Fire Marshal

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## Rep. Phil Haire speaks to 'League' about state of state

By Sally Hanson  
Reporter

The October 11 meeting of the League of Women Voters of Macon County featured Phil Haire, representative of the 119<sup>th</sup> NC House District. John Snow, who represents the 50<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District in the North Carolina General Assembly, was not able to attend the meeting.

Haire gave a general summary of what has gone on in the Assembly this year, as well as some hints of what is planned for the future. "We are a growing state, and we're the tenth largest state in the nation now," he said.

"One thing I'm particularly proud of is that we put a 20-cent fee on rabies vaccines that goes to the state of North Carolina to send out to programs to spay and neuter animals," Haire said. Every year, anywhere from 300,000 to 500,000 animals are altered in North Carolina.

North Carolina's budget for this year was \$20.7 billion. Fifty-six percent of the budget, or \$11.8 billion, is set aside for public education, which includes public schools, community colleges, and the public university system. "This is one of the best investments we can make, because we're not only investing for today, but also for tomorrow and the future," Haire said.

The Education Access Rewards North Carolina Scholars Fund (EARN) was also initiated this year by the General Assembly. "We have set aside \$127 million to give every child who wants to go to the university system or a community college a \$4,000 grant," Haire said. Eligible students must meet federal Pell Grant requirements, and have a family income at or below 200% of the national poverty level.

Another program that has been initiated in Macon County is the Learn and Earn program for high school students. "The program works with young kids in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and starts them on a career path where they can take community college courses in 9<sup>th</sup> grade so that when they finish high school they can get an associate's degree one year later," Haire explained.

Salaries have also been increased by 5% for both community college and university staff, and state employees earned a 4% raise. Even with these improvements, Haire noted that community college faculty earn less than one half of the national salary average.

Western Carolina University was granted \$43 million for a new school of Health and Gerontology that will be located on the new Millennial Campus. "This is going to be a tremendous boon to the whole region, because right now we have a big problem trying to turn out enough nurses and other allied health workers to staff our hospitals," he said.

Haire said that 23% of the state's budget, or \$7.6 billion, is appropriated for

health issues. "North Carolina is one of only three states that require counties to pay a part of the state Medicaid expenses," he said. "This year, we told counties that we're going to assume their Medicaid cost over the next three years." Next year, the state will pay 25% of the total county Medicaid expenses, while the year after next they will assume 50% of the county's share, and a year after that the state will pay 100% of the costs to counties for Medicaid, said Haire.

To do this, the state needs money. "We gave counties the option to raise taxes in two different ways," Haire said. "Citizens can vote to either raise the sales tax by a quarter of a percent, or they can approve a land-transfer fee."

This land-transfer tax would be 0.4%, and all the money collected from it would go back to the county. "We're letting the people of the county vote on it: It will be on the ballot in November," Haire said.

Haire also discussed developments in mental health reform. "We did sign a law that requires health insurance companies to cover bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder, anorexia nervosa, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder," he said.

A high-risk insurance pool has additionally been created for citizens who had problems getting insurance coverage, or for those who couldn't afford insurance at all. An SCHIP program (State Children's Health Insurance Program) is also ongoing to provide coverage for children who are uninsured.

"Even though it's been vetoed in Washington, North Carolina put an additional \$59 million into the SCHIP program," Haire said. He added that the state has an obligation to look after children in North Carolina who are at or below 300% of the poverty level. "We are very proud we have done this for the children of the state," he said.

A sum of \$200,000 dollars was allotted for women's healthcare for women who aren't eligible for Medicaid. Haire also said that 10% of the state's budget went to justice and public safety departments. "It takes over a billion dollars to run the prison system in North Carolina," he said.

The General Assembly has also improved requirements for the registration of sex offenders and has passed laws prohibiting sex offenders from living close to schools or education centers. The issue of gangs was also addressed with an appropriation of almost \$5 million in grants for local communities to work with gang prevention.

"We've passed a whole series of laws that have to do with gangs, and one thing I think we're going to have to place more

• See HAIRE page 16



# Highlands School elementary students enjoy day on the farm



Above, Ms. McClellan's kindergarten class joined Ms. Sizemore's first-grade class at the Denver Downs Dairy Farm in Anderson, S.C. While there, the children enjoyed a myriad of fall activities including picking pumpkins, enjoying a hayride and feeding goats.

Right, children had rubber duckie races by making them race up a trough by pumping water with a hand pump. Below, the children enjoyed a "cow ride" pulled by a tractor.

Photos by Ashley Coppage



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## ... POLITICS continued from page 31

Western Carolina know this, including most Republicans.

The same man who ran against Shuler last time in the Democrat Party primary, is apparently running again. He is still irrelevant. Shuler will be the nominee.

On the Republican side, Carl Mumpower, City Councilman from Asheville, and Spence Campbell, former Chairman of the Republican Party in Henderson County, have just declared to run for the nomination to oppose Shuler in the General Election in 2008. I now join them.

This website has not been seriously updated for more than a year, but it contains more information about my background than most people would care to read. It's here for all to see. I'll also shortly put up the text of my press conference to announce my run for Congress in 2006, and the text of my speech to the 11th District Republican Convention in 2006. Everything said then is relevant today, and posting that will save time.

Here, I'll keep this short and sweet. I have experience at every level of government in the United States – local, state and federal. I also have experience in all three branches of the federal government – Executive, Judicial and Legislative. My primary areas of experience are 33 years practice in the US Supreme Court, and 35 years experience working with and for thousands of state legislators from across the county. I add, however, that I was an actual employee of governments for only four years, two with the City of Baltimore in the mid-60s and two with the Commission on the Bicentennial of the US Constitution in the mid-80s.

Concerning the 11th District, I was not born here. I have been coming here since 1948 to a house that was bought by my grandparents in 1923, and is now my home. Each of us have exactly two ways to acquire a home town. First, we are born there by no choice of our own. Or second, we travel the world, we see many places, and we choose where we will live for the balance of our lives. I found my home town

## Burning ban in effect

Effective immediately, in conjunction with a statewide burning ban issued by the North Carolina Division of Forest Resources due to severe drought conditions, pursuant to Chapter 3 of the N.C. Fire Code Section 307 and Chapter 91 of the Macon County Code of Ordinances, the Macon county Fire Marshal's Office has prohibited open burning due to local conditions which make such fires hazardous.

Open burning will be prohibited until such time as adequate rainfall lessens the hazards associated with open burning.

— **Warren Cabe**  
**Macon County Fire Marshal**

the second way, here in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Concerning the Court, I had my first case in the US Supreme Court before Heath Shuler was born. I won my first case there before he entered elementary school.

Concerning state legislators, I worked with and for the American Legislative Exchange Council for 35 years. That is a voluntary organization of some 2,500 conservative state legislators. I have worked with them, done research for them, and testified for them as an expert witness on the Constitution before committees of 24 state legislatures.

I have often said, and repeated in writing, that if the entire membership of Congress were put out in the street tomorrow and replaced by members of state legislatures chosen at random, Congress would immediately become more competent, more honest, and more in line with the will of the American people. I've worked with Representatives, Senators, and occasional candidates for President. State legislators are a better as a group than the lot of other politicians – with some notable exceptions, of course.

I am interested in, and prepared in, dozens of issues that Congress will deal with in its next session. If I had to boil those down to the two most important ones, they would be the Constitution and education. In the here and now, our federal government is on its way to failure, to the extent that judges continue to decide cases contrary to the Constitution, and contrary to the will of the people as expressed by their elected representatives.

Concerning education, many philosophers have noted that every civilization is exactly one generation away from barbarity. To the extent that we do not educate our children and then our grandchildren in what it means to be an American, the core of this nation will be lost by degrees, and by generations, until there is nothing worth saving.

In the short run, many issues are extremely important. But in the long run, only one issue – the quality of our education – will determine the future of America.

I have been writing and publishing on public issues for more than forty years. Anyone can search the Internet and find out more about me than about any other candidate, including the current incumbent. I do not ask, or expect, that anyone agree with me on all possible issues. If that were the standard, almost no one would vote for me, including my fiancée. I ask only one thing of those reading this statement.

See for yourself whether I have the kind of knowledge, experience, and commitment that you seek in your Member of Congress. If you are satisfied that I'm the best of the "rookies" who might be elected in 2008, then I seek your vote. I welcome your support. And I ask that you become active in this Campaign.

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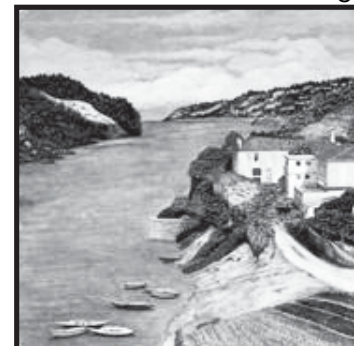
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## • BUSINESS NEWS •

### Artist to attend Wolfgang wine events during Culinary Weekend

To say that Thomas Arvid paints wine is like saying that Monet painted lily pads: true, but missing the point.

For Arvid, the point is capturing a special moment in time and the joy that people share when they share wine. Perhaps that's why his bold, oversized still lifes of wine and the rituals surrounding its consumption have captivated collectors worldwide and turned him into an art world phenomenon. Don't tell that to Arvid though; his attitude towards his success is as fresh and unpretentious as his approach to painting.

"It's amazing that my collectors find a personal fulfillment in my work," says Arvid, "especially when I'm just doing what I love."

Painting comes first for Arvid — literally. He's up at five a.m. and at the easel until one o'clock. He typically works on more than one piece at a time and produces eight to ten paintings a year. His large, elaborate canvases can take as long as two months from start to finish.

The demand for Arvid's work is so great that he is revered in galleries across the US, Canada and Japan. Arvid collectors include individuals who are drawn by his mastery of light, depth and reflection, as well as influential winemakers who appreciate the way he translates the craftsmanship of wine-making to canvas.

Thomas Arvid and his wife, Vanessa,

live and base work in Atlanta, where they head one of the most successful boutique art publishing companies in the country, Thomas Arvid Fine Art, Inc. and employ a full time staff of 15+ people. With art in more than 50 galleries, Arvid has risen from a local entrepreneur to an artist with a multimillion dollar enterprise. His originals regularly sell for hundreds of thousands of dollars, and supporters often wait years for one.

As a self-taught painter, Arvid learned to appreciate wine and great food in a similar fashion: with time, experimentation, humor, and a sense of bal-

ance between his disciplined work ethic and his role as a family guy with two young boys and a wide circle of friends. Thomas feels fortunate to make a remarkable living doing something he loves and continues to share the experience with those around him.

"It's all about the quest for authenticity, in our often superficial lives," Thomas said, "the heights and depths of being human, the special moments we spend with friends and a bottle of wine."

It's not often that an artist is credited with reinvigorating a genre, but many say that with his compellingly realistic wine paintings, Thomas Arvid has redefined the concept of the still life, bringing it into the

• See BIZ NEWS page 19



**Artist Thomas Arvid**

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## • BUSINESS NEWS •

### Century 21 Mountain Lifestyles names top producers in Highlands and Cashiers for September

21<sup>st</sup> century. Arvid's paintings are technically extraordinary in depth, color, texture, and reflections. Meticulous in their detail, they communicate ideas and emotions beyond the frame.

As Doug Shafer of Shafer Family Vineyards puts it, "Arvid's style is big and bold, with enough selected detail and softness to create a sense of balance. . . this blend of elements is precisely what winemakers hope to bring to their top vintages."

Arvid will be at Wolfgang's Restaurant & Wine Bistro twice during the Chamber of Commerce Culinary Weekend November 8-11.

On Saturday, Nov. 10 he will be painting at the Silver Oak Cellars Wine Dinner "Life is a Cabernet" at 6 p.m. and on Sunday, Nov. 11 he will be painting at the Cakebread Cellars Brunch at 11:30 p.m.

For more information and reservations call Leah at 526-3801.



**Eddie Palmer**



**Elizabeth Matej**



**Sherman Pope**



**Bill Bubenick**

In the Cashiers Office, Eddie Palmer, broker associate, was named top listing agent and Elizabeth Matej, broker associate was named top sales producer. Matej was also awarded the Bronze Producer award for her production in

2006 as well as the Top Sales by Units award for her office in 2006.

In Highlands Office, Sherman Pope, broker associate, was named top listing agent and Bill Bubenick, broker associate, was named top sales agent. Sherman


Pope was awarded the Top Sales by Volume, Units & Production for his office in 2006; Bill Bubenick received the Top Listing by Volume & Units award for his office in 2006.

## • HIGHLANDS FINE DINING •

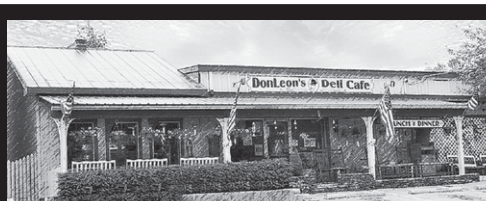
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**CLASSIC HIGHLANDS CHARMER.** Hidden in a Rhododendron thicket, this lovely stone cottage exudes the Old Highlands feel. Wood floors, stone fireplace and handcrafted heavy beams make the inside environment almost as pleasant as the large screened porch that observes the waterfall and noisy stream. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths on the main level, sleeping loft with 1/2 bath for kids upstairs. Full basement has a one car garage and plenty of room for storage or a workshop. Generator, carport and a scenic bridge & pond on 1.5+/- acres of grounds rounds out this package. Offered at \$749,000. mls #60821



**WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU PAIR** one of the best builders with one of the best design and decor teams in the Highlands area? A great house with a spectacular mountain view! Located at the Cotswolds, this 4 bedroom, 4 1/2 bath has an exceptional floor plan, loads of glass, french doors, 2 car garage and a great covered porch are just a few of the features of this new home under construction. Offered \$1,850,000. mls #60668



**WILDCAT CLIFFS COUNTRY CLUB.** Brand new 4 bedroom, 4 bath home on a rushing stream just inside the comfort and security of WCCC. Large open living room with fireplace. Lovely master with a stunning master bath. Enjoy outdoor living with the covered porch with outdoor fireplace. Membership approval is required. Offered at \$695,000. mls #60514



**MOUNTAIN VIEWS!** On a private lot at the end of the road, this 4 bedroom, 3 bath features spacious rooms and three stone fireplaces. Master bedroom with sitting area and fireplace. Vaulted ceiling with T&G pine lin living room. \$825,000. mls #57259



**Great Commercial Investment property!** Over 400 feet of Hwy 64 Road Frontage and 4 acres with 3 income producing buildings make this a great land banking opportunity or project for retail or office. Great location in a high traffic area. Offered at \$1,500,000.00 mls #63196



**SAGEE MOUNTAIN.** Lovely corner lot/great yard with well built custom home. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, additional guest quarters with bath over garage. Stone fireplace. Screened porch, generator, 2 car garage and loads of dry storage. Offered at \$1,290,000. mls #58560



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Call Pam Taylor at 342-6988 or 526-9027

Call Rick Joiner at 200-9214 or 526-2592



**MIRROR LAKE** – This darling Mirror Lake cottage is on more than a 1/2 acre of wooded land, walk to the lake and to town. It has a large covered porch and lots of old Highlands charm. On city sewer and ready to move in. This is what everyone wants when they come to the mountains. Two bed, 1 bath. Offered at \$395,000. Call Dan Chapman at 342-6640. MLS# 62560



**BIG BEAR PEN** – This is what everybody wants when they come to the mountains. Close to town in the woods, charming and comfortable. Three bedrooms with fireplace in master bedroom. Two baths. Owner wants to sell. Offered at \$595,000. Call Dan Chapman at 342-6640. MLS#63260.



**CULLASAJA CLUB** – Newly furnished posh get-away perfect place to turn the key and leave the guarded gates of Cullasja in charge. Zero maintenance cabin. Chic, skyhigh beams, unique wooden floors, 4 carpeted bedrooms and 4 1/2 stone, tile, Kohler baths with granite counters. Perfect kids' or owners' retreat upstairs. Greatroom has two stone fireplaces and a slate wet bar with ice maker. Carport. \$895,000. Call Dan Chapman at 342-6640. MLS#61700.



**MANTLE RIDGE** – Great value, priced below appraisal. Forested mountainside with breathtaking views. This lovely new home has breathtaking views of Shortoff Mountain, master suites on both levels, third bedroom, bath, powder room, great room, dining area, and gourmet kitchen. Home on two acres for \$725,000 or home on 11.5 acres for \$1.5 million. Call Pam Taylor at 342-6988 or 526-9027.



**WALK TO HARRIS LAKE DOWNTOWN** – This is a completely updated 4 bed, 3 bath home. The open floor plan offers Old Highlands charm with a gracious outdoor family room. Two master suites and children's room with bunk beds. Two massive stone fireplaces, cypress and slate flooring and lovely finishes. Offered at \$899,000. Call Pam Taylor at 342-6988 or 526-9027. MLS#59837.



**ON APPLE LAKE** – Two levels of gracious mountain living with main floor kitchen, great room with dining and stone fireplace, master bedroom and bath, one guest room and wrap-around deckin. Lower level bedroom and bath, party area and workshop lead to expansive decks that lead to lake. Beautiful landscaping and natural growth and garden area. House and one lot offered at \$895,000 or house and 2.16 acres for \$1,200,000. Call Pam Taylor at 342-6988 or 526-9027. MLS#59116.

**VACANT LAND - OFFERED AT: \$595,000** Gorgeous 4.12 acres +/- off Shortoff Road and Norton Ridge, with Norton Creek running through it and an island picnic area! 5 bedroom septic permit and well in place— this property is ready for you to build your dream mountain home on. Only 6 estate parcels in Norton Ridge, with 2 luxury homes already built and occupied. Call Pam Taylor at 342-6988 or 526-9027. MLS#61830.

**7.39 +/- ACRES IN HICKORY RIDGE** –

Beautiful wooded lot with a small pond and lazy creek. Property has community well access, paved roads and conveniently located to Cashiers and Highlands off U.S. 64. Priced to sell at \$285,000. Contact Rick Joiner at 200-9214 or 526-2592. MLS#61307.



**HORSE COVE ROAD** – Beautiful custom 4 bed 6 bath home built in 2004 by Coppage and Coppage. On 2+/- acres minutes from Main Street. Nearly 6,000 sq. ft. of living space, loads of custom features wine room, generator, gourmet kitchen, bar/billiard room, \$1,295,000. Call Rick Joiner at 200-9214 or 526-2592. MLS#60672.



**GRAND MOUNTAIN VIEW** – This masterpiece is complete and ready for its new owners. Outstanding floor plan and magnificent, unobstructed year-round view of Cashiers' Valley and Devil's Court. Quality finishes throughout and thoughtful upgrades. \$2,399,000. Call Rick Joiner at 200-9214 or 526-2592. MLS#60795.

**SEQUOYAH LAKEFRONT PROPERTY** – Over 450 feet of lake-front property on beautiful Lake Sequoyah. This 2.33+/- acre lot has spectacular views, paved access with access to city water and sewer. Minutes from downtown. \$995,000. Call Rick Joiner at 200-9214 or 526-2592. MLS#62354.







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Ran Shaffner and Katie Brugger receive award.

## Highlanders receive Paul Green awards

The North Carolina Society of Historians held its 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting last Saturday at Carolina Trace Country Club in Sanford, N.C., where awards were presented in several historical and genealog-

ical categories relating to North Carolina history.

Included among the annual award winners were two Highlanders who re-

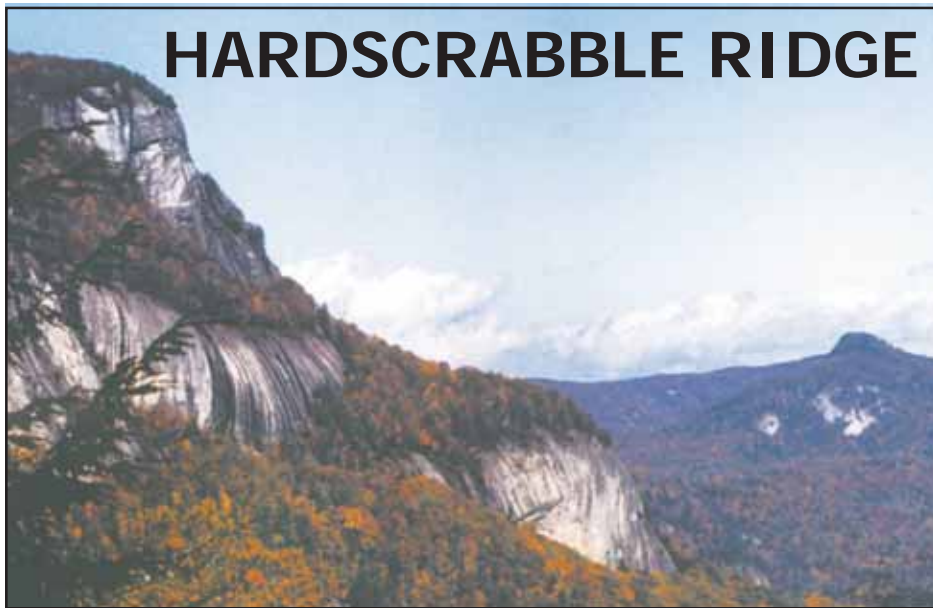
• See AWARDS page 23

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## ... AWARDS continued from page 22

ceived the prestigious Paul Green Multimedia Award. Randolph "Ran" Shaffner was cited for the pamphlet he created for the Highlands Historical Society, entitled "Highlands, North Carolina: A Brief History," which the judges praised for its layout, captioned photographs, verses of poetry, and marvelously concise history of the town.

A second Paul Green Award was given jointly to Kathleen "Katie" Brugger and Ran Shaffner for the DVD entitled: "A Brief History of Highlands." In this instance, the judges cited, in addition to the script, the kaleidoscopic arrangement of vintage photographs and pictures that were well chosen, skillfully synchronized, and clearly narrated. They also commented that the background music, arranged by Arthur Hancock, enhanced the script.

What impressed the judges collectively about both the brochure and the DVD was the fact that people of old Highlands "lived hard yet were survivors. They were strong in spirit as well as in body; proud of their rich heritage as much as they were

of their own personal accomplishments."

Ran Shaffner is the author of *The Heart of the Blue Ridge*, the authoritative history of Highlands, and the archivist at the Highlands Historical Museum. Katie Brugger and her husband Arthur Hancock produce all of the programming for Northland Cable Television's Channel 14, including the weekly show "Heart of the High Country," for which the award-winning short film was first produced.

The North Carolina Society of Historians was established in 1941 for the purpose of collecting, preserving, and perpetuating North Carolina's rich heritage and of recognizing those persons who fulfill the society's objectives. Its Multimedia Award is named for Pulitzer-Prize-winning playwright Paul Green, a charter member of the Society, who invented the outdoor drama with his creation of *The Lost Colony* in 1937. This category includes historical plays, videos, oral histories, poetry, music, web sites, brochures, and pamphlets.

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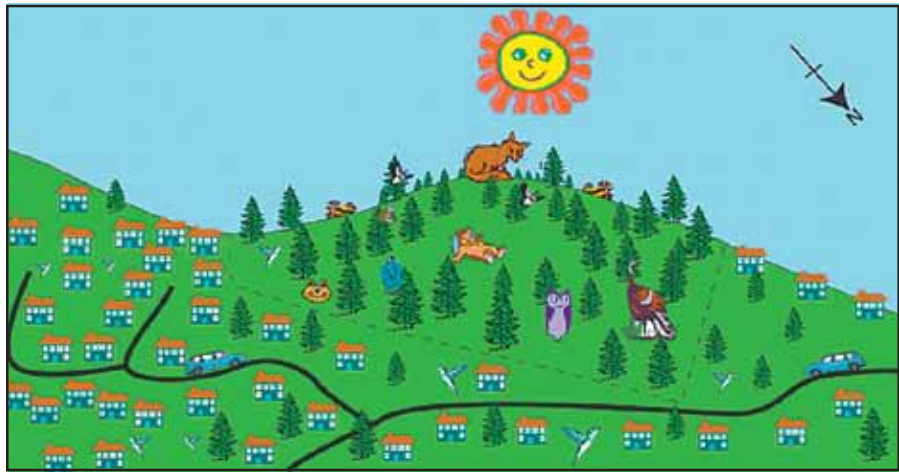
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View from Whiteside  
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## ... LETTERS continued from page 2

boat in Vietnam where the odds of his being wounded or killed were over seventy percent. In other words, John Kerry was under fire-which is more than conservatives will ever be able to say about George W. Bush, whose own service records contain holes large enough to drive a tank through.

What really set Ms. Clark and Ms. Niblack off was their complete misunderstanding of what Ms. Brugger meant by her term "soldier Gods," in the second half of her article. They concluded, erroneously, that Ms. Brugger was either insulting or making some kind of blanket attack on the U.S. military. When Ms. Brugger asked "When did soldiers become Gods in this country?" her POINT was, "When did soldiers become so sacred and elevated that no one is allowed to criticize them or question their motives?" This is a perfectly legitimate question. When a four-star General named Petraeus writes an op-ed piece in The Washington Post giving a glowing appraisal of how wonderful everything is going in Iraq, when he does so just before a presidential election, why yes, there's very good reason to question his objectivity. Remember the endless manure the brass handed us about how we were "winning" in Vietnam?

"Support our troops" is merely the latest patriotic platitude; a loyalty oath; a pledge of allegiance; a depressing reincarnation of "I am not now, nor have I ever been, a member of the communist party." Who in blazes doesn't feel anguish when our people in uniform-and hundreds of thousands of innocent Iraqis-are being slaughtered for no legitimate reason? Remember those Weapons of Mass Destruction? That's how Bush II sold a terrified America on his exercise in "nation building."

Boy was he wrong! Bush is not only incompetent he's a liar. A lot of us have never doubted that character assessment. Our numbers have now increased to represent seventy percent of the American public.

The writers label those of us who opposed the Vietnam War "traitors." In fact we were heroes. History has proved us right. We supported our troops-by agitating to get them out of that hell-hole. Vietnam was another disastrous and unwinnable war born of American paranoia and hubris. We watched the French get shredded in that buzz saw; then went right ahead and stuck our heads into it. How many more names would have been inscribed on that black wall if not for Kerry and Fonda and many millions of Americans like them? What do you think "support our troops" means? Pasting a yellow ribbon on your SUV? Pinning an American flag on your lapel?

What the military is supposed to be

doing is upholding and defending the Constitution of the United States. Freedom of speech is the very cornerstone of that document. In a healthy democracy we would be vigorously debating ideas...not engaging in Fox "News" mud-slinging. One should be able to write one's opinion in a newspaper without being subjected to bad-mannered insults-"drivel;" "politically correct swill;" "burka;" "People magazine;"-by people who clearly (and tellingly) missed the entire POINT of the column: free speech includes the right to criticize the military. Finally I'd like to say that I'm married to Katie Brugger. She obviously does not require my help but I wanted to support her in print.

Arthur Hancock  
Highlands

## The Gorge Road from a trucker's point of view

Dear Editor,

First of all, I love your publication. The Highlander newspaper is a great little paper also covering all of the local/social things such as who won the tic-tac-toe tournament on Tuesday, or what man got whacked by his wife on Wednesday, who threw a rock at someone on Thursday, who was frustrated on Friday, had some satisfaction on Saturday and finally had some fun on Sunday. It however does not cover much else that is happening around us which needs to be known to the community and that's where your publication does such a great job and service to Highlands.

Concerning the big truck problem on the Gorge Road. I feel that I am more than qualified to pass some judgment on this subject in that I started driving large straight rigs as a teenager, as well as 18-wheelers later on and finally driving a Greyhound bus for several years, including the huge Scenicruisers which I hated with a passion, the so-called "Buffalos" were my favorite.

First of all, the truck warning sign on U.S. 64 in Highlands may be big and yellow but it should have flashing yellow lights on them and also be better placed. The one at the bottom of Webbmont Road at U.S. 64 is past the point of no return for any big rig and should be located on the west side of the intersection of N.C. 106 and U.S. 64 or the southeast corner of that intersection with a reference to U.S. 64 west.

The same thing applies to the big yellow truck warning sign just east of the 441 by-pass in Franklin. Flashing yellow lights on those signs would do a lot more toward getting drivers' attention.

I have personally brought this up to the Highlands Police Department but as they told me, that is the responsibility of the N.C. DOT.

• See LETTERS page 29



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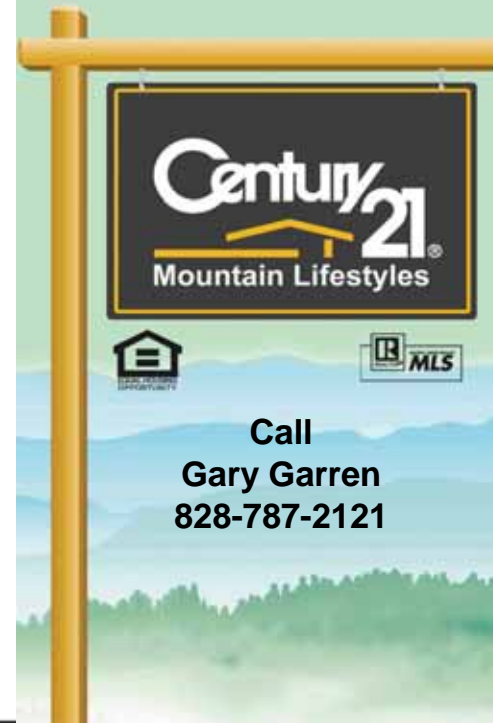
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Left: Walk to downtown Highlands from this new log home with lots of charm. Three bedrooms, 3 baths, hand-hewn logs, two-story rock fireplace, Pine floors, professional landscaping, outdoor fire pit. Can have additional privacy or build additional homes on adjoining 3 acres. Offered for \$849,000 with additional land also available.

Right: Former home of Highlands premier contractor Deadeye Potts. Wormy chestnut in living room, some hardwood under carpet. Wonderful pond in backyard with deck overlooking it. Private location, yet very close in. Downstairs basement area could be finished into more bedrooms and living space. Extensively remodeled in recent years. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. Pond, privacy, excellent construction, in-town. Unoccupied and easy to show. Reduced 50K from 998,000 to 948,000



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## ... BUGS continued from page 1

to visit Julie's at her home. Even with the antibiotics, Julie's thumb had begun to hurt with every heart beat and when Dale arrived Julie was shaking with fever and the tip of her thumb had turned gray.

"She took me to the emergency room where the doctor sliced it open and drained it and said 'we're going to do everything we can to help you keep your thumb,'" she said. "That scared me."

He prescribed an additional antibiotic and sent her home.

By Saturday morning, Julie's temperature was 102.7 – high for someone who runs a subnormal temperature regularly — so she headed back to the emergency room. A couple of doctor consults later and she was admitted.

"By then I couldn't bend my thumb or my other fingers because the infection was spreading and my hand was so swollen it looked like Shrek's hand," she said.

Once admitted, she was given antibiotics intravenously and on Monday underwent surgery where the infection was again lanced and drains inserted.

Cultures eventually labeled the nasty organism that had invaded her thumb Beta Strep. Several children in her kindergarten room had had strep throat and doctors presume the infection entered the cut on Julie's thumb somewhere in that room.

Though home now, she won't be back at school until Monday and it will take another two weeks until she knows whether she will have to undergo skin grafts and more surgery on her thumb.

"I am so very fortunate to have received the care I did and that the doctors prescribed the right antibiotics and were so aggressive with the treatment," she said. "Now I'm telling everyone, no matter how minor the cut, wash it, put Neosporin on it and cover it with a Band-Aid."

Doctors across the country are seeing more and more of this type of thing.

One special concern is a type of infection caused by the bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus*.

Usually abbreviated as "Staph aureus," or simply "staph," this bacterium is quite often part of the normal colonization of bacteria that live in and on the human body.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, many healthy people are carriers of the bacterium, but it brings them no ill effects. The problem arises when the bacteria end up in places where they can cause an infection, such as a cut or scrape in the skin.

Many strains of staph have developed resistance to common antibiotics which used to be the first line of treatment, and as a result these drugs aren't as effective as they once were.

A big concern in healthcare today is methicillin-resistant staph aureus (MRSA), a particularly virulent type of staph that isn't easily controlled with antibiotics.

Stan Polanski, Communicable Disease

Coordinator of the Macon County Health Department, said "Anyone can get a staph or MRSA infection. Surveys of medical laboratories in various parts of the U.S. have found methicillin resistance in anywhere from 20% to 50% or more of the strains of Staph aureus that grow from wound cultures."

However, historically there have been certain populations that are more likely to acquire these infections. MRSA is usually classified according to how it is contracted, which can be either in a hospital setting or in the general community.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, patients undergoing invasive procedures or who have weak immune systems are most likely to acquire MRSA. These infections can lead to life-threatening conditions like pneumonia or sepsis.

Community-acquired MRSA is much more common according to Polanski. "Contact sports such as football and wrestling increase the risk of skin infections because of skin damage, physical contact and the sharing of towels or equipment. Outbreaks have also been reported in daycare centers, in prisons and on military bases," Polanski said.

The important thing to remember is that MRSA is preventable. Practicing good hygiene and covering wounds is critical in preventing the spread of the bacteria according to Polanski. "Most community-acquired MRSA infections are resistant to some antibiotics, but they are still readily treated with any of several common antibiotics. Treatment does not always require antibiotics, and sometimes lancing and draining the infection is all that is needed," he said.

Even though most community-acquired MRSA isn't life-threatening, it's still important to pay attention to minor abrasions to ensure any infections are treated appropriately.

To determine if a cut or scrape warrants medical intervention, always see a medical provider just to be safe.

## The best way to contact police

The Highlands Police Department would like to make citizens of Highlands aware of the following procedures for non-emergency calls of service.

Officers are on patrol all day everyday, however the office is not staffed at all times. Persons needing to make a report or speak with an officer should call one of the following local numbers: (828) 369-9116 or (828) 369-3393 for the Dispatch center.

To conduct any other police business, such as obtaining copies of reports or speak with administration you may do so at the Police Department located at 310 Oak St. or call (828) 526-9431 Monday thru Friday, 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.



# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

## Are You Tired?

By Darlene Melcher

Community Bible Church

The other day I came across a heading in the book of Hebrews that really caught my attention, "The Believer's Rest." My husband and I are excitedly awaiting the arrival of our first child, so lately I am a big fan of anything that has to do with rest!

Hebrews chapter 4, verses 1-2 reads, "Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any of you may seem to have come short of it. For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not unified by faith in those who heard it."

These verses remind me of my own faith story. Growing up, I had a lot of knowledge about God and to be honest, I was a very big fan of Jesus. I believed that Jesus had existed and died and I always thought those Roman soldiers were pretty rotten for doing such a cruel thing to such a nice man. I liked Jesus, I liked the idea of grace and going to heaven. However, I had not entered the "Believer's Rest." I said my prayers and then I went out and worked as hard as I could to be good enough for God to be proud of me, good enough to feel pretty good about myself. I worked so hard that I didn't really believe that I needed God's forgiveness. The thing about forgiveness is even when it is offered to a guilty person, if the person doesn't admit that they are guilty, they will not accept the forgiveness and therefore deny its healing work.

The words I heard about Jesus did not profit me because they were not unified with faith and the belief that I really needed what the "good news" offered. And what is this "good news?" Jesus' offer is this: "Come to Me all you who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

At home, I have difficulty resting if I know there are things around the house that need to be done. However, I always breathe a sigh of relief when I walk into the kitchen and my sweet husband has put all the dishes into the dish washer. I know I can rest because all that needs to be done is finished. The rest that God offers us is the rest from having to somehow work our way to Him. And how can He offer this entrance into His restful presence without us having to work to be good enough? As Jesus hung on a wooden cross, and died the only death that can pay for all the sin we have committed, He said, "It is finished!" and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. He has finished the work, and when we combine this knowledge with faith that we need what God is offering, we find rest for our souls! What good news!

Seven years ago, for me, all the words untied with faith. I remember feeling the weight of my sin for the first time. The Roman soldiers weren't the only guilty ones because Jesus died to pay for sin, my sin. In that moment, without a word, I knew I needed what He offered. I was weary and heavy-laden with my sin and as soon as I believed, Jesus lifted that burden from me and gave me peace and rest. If you have not united the good news with faith, don't carry that heavy burden any longer. Jesus can give you rest. And if you are a Christian, don't fall back into the habit of somehow believing you can work for God's love. His love for you is complete. You can neither increase it or diminish it, so keep the faith and rest!

# • PLACES OF WORSHIP •

### BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

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

### CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

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

### CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rev. Cass Daly • 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.  
Wednesday: Men's Bible study at 8 a.m.  
at First Baptist Church  
Pot Luck Lunch last Sunday of each month.

### CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SERVICES

3rd & Spring Streets  
Sunday 11 a.m.  
Wednesday testimony meeting 7 p.m.  
Study room open Tuesday 2-4 p.m.

### 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

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685  
3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands  
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 Worship;  
6:30 p.m. High School Group  
Wednesdays: 5:30 p.m. Supper (free for kids 8th grade and under); 6:15 p.m., Adult Bible Study; 6:30 p.m. programs for students.

### THURSDAYS: 9:30 A.M. WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Rev. Brian Sullivan - Rector: 526-2968  
Sunday: 8 A.M. - Holy Eucharist (Rite I) Chapel  
8:30 A.M. - Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School  
10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)  
Sunday Service on Channel 14 at 10:30 A.M.  
Monday: 4 P.M. Women's Cursillo Group  
Tuesday: 8 A.M. Men's Cursillo Group  
4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry  
Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice  
Thursday: 10 A.M. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)  
10:30 A.M. Daughters of the King

• 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 children's  
Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Jr & Sr 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 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. Mark Kayser, Interim Pastor  
Dr. Don Mullen, Associate Pastor 526-3175  
Sun.: Worship - 11 a.m.; Sun.School - 9:30 & 9:45.  
Mondays: 8 a.m. - Men's Bible Discussion & Breakfast  
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. - Seekers  
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

Senior Pastor Todd Struble; Asst. Pastor Mike Harris  
526-3376  
Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.;  
5 p.m. Youth Group

Wed: Supper; 6; 6:15 - children, youth, & adults  
studies; 6:15 - Adult choir

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

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

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell  
2152 Dillard Road - 526-9741  
Sundays: Worship/Communion - 10:30  
LITTLE CHURCH OF THE WILDWOOD  
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.

### MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprians Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871  
Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.

For more information, call (706)-745-1842.

### OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Tien, Priest  
Parish office, 526-2418  
Sundays: Mass - 11 a.m.  
Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.

(through last Saturday of October)

### 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  
828-369-3633

Lay Led Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

Sundays: Worship - 11 a.m.

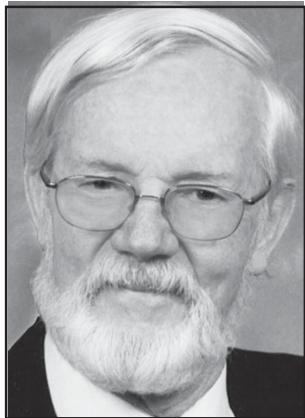
### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



# Question #4 for the Town Board candidates:

## What is the best way to foster economic development in Highlands and protect what makes Highlands special?



**Larry Brannan**

Brannan:

I would like to rephrase the question. Somehow the term 'economic development' and the Highlands 'mountain village' concept do not seem compatible.

The question I would answer is: How do we maintain and foster our local small business community without adverse impact on the appearance and unique qualities of Highlands?

Highlands has been changing ever since it was founded. About year 1900, larger summer homes were being built and more cash employment was available for the local folks.

My neighbors on Satulah Mountain have shown me pictures taken from their front porch. There were almost no trees and Main Street (unpaved) was visible from three blocks away. They tell me about the local movie house and the popular places that are no longer here. An elderly friend, who was born in Highlands, tells me of his jobs (including caddying at the country clubs) that allowed him to stay in Highlands rather than to go off to the big city for work.

I suspect most of us would not really want to go back to the Highlands of 1900 or even 1940. However, a lot of people are not very pleased with what has happened to Highlands in recent years. The changes have been more drastic and



**Dennis DeWolf**

not necessarily in keeping with our concept of an idyllic, peaceful and prosperous mountain village.

In any town, it can be very difficult to maintain the right balance between encouraging and supporting the business community and protecting the town of the 'good old days'.

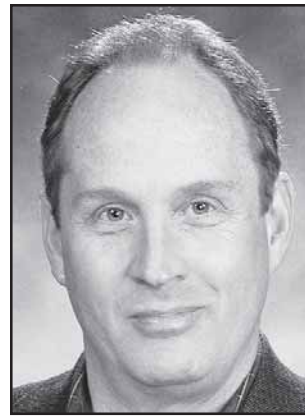
Some are bothered by almost any change made and others feel that they should be free to do anything they think might make their business more successful – thereby is the conflict.

President Reagan said "The purpose of government is to protect us from each other".

I see that as the role of the town board in Highlands – to consider the needs and desires of all in Highlands and to diligently work for the benefit of all now and especially for the future. At times, this might mean denying something a business wants or allowing a change that will displease some people.

What do you want Highlands to be five years from now? How about ten years from now?

Have you seen or heard of a plan that sets forth a concept of what our town should be after another ten years of population increases and home/condo building? If you go to the Highlands web site, you will find the original Land Use Plan



**John "Buz" Dotson**

and the 1995 updated version. A lot of effort was put into formulating this plan. The goals are laudable but sometimes a little vague on execution.

I would recommend updating the plan again for several purposes. The first is to reflect present conditions, especially for issues of current concern – such as parking, public restrooms, building size and density, and traffic flow. The projection of all the anticipated growth and changes for the next five years and the next ten years should be added to the plan with the estimated impact on the management and appearance of the town. Using these projections, with input from all sectors of our town, a detailed concept of what we would like Highlands to be in 2017 could be prepared. To the extent possible, goals should be specific and realistic. Review and revision of ordinances might be needed to support the plan. All town board decisions should be compared to the intent and goals of the plan.

By 2017, only half of what was wanted may have been realized. But, how much of what we want will happen if we set no goals and have no plan?

DeWolf:

There are various opinions on the driving forces of economics in Highlands and many people focus on construction and land/



**Gary Drake**

house sales as the primary source of income for the community at large. No doubt those factors play a significant role in the economic well being for many of us but the incentive for construction and house purchase has traditionally been based on the desire of many to experience Highlands, its people and our environment to whatever degree possible.

The uniqueness and quality of life realities here have always been a "magnet" for a very diverse cross-section of various people from various parts of the country and the world. Many have come here through the years viewing it as an oasis of retreat from the craziness of life style that surrounds them. Others have their own individual reasons, of course, but the bottom line is we all, whether new to the area, long time resident or native all contribute to the vibrancy and economic viability of Highlands and the plateau community.

I think it is more proactive and appropriate to focus on economic sustainability than economic development and continue to support and mentor those activities and organizations in the community that bring wholeness and meaning to our lives together. Throughout history Highlands has been incredibly fortunate to have individu-



**Alan Marsh**

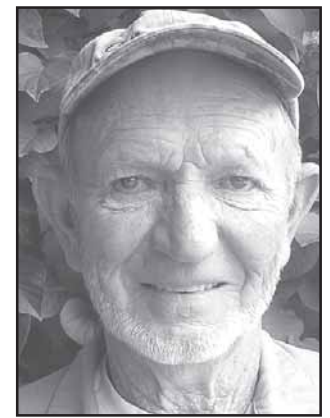
als and groups initiate various churches, the library and art gallery, the biological station, the hospital, the ball field and recreation park property, the Land Trust, Mountain Findings, Fibbers, the garden clubs, the Community Building, Historical Society, Emergency Council, Literacy Council, Pac Center, Pine Street Park and a host of others. All of these entities have enriched and invigorated the sense of community and quality of life that in turn feeds and supports economic sustainability, financial stability and universal well being.

Development and change should be embraced when it complements and enhances our community and lifestyle in the process.

Drake:

Encouragement is needed to bring new and different quality businesses into town. The Town Board must work with the Chamber on this matter. By different, I don't mean chain stores or chain restaurants. Also the Town Board should work closer with our existing businesses making sure any concerns are addressed promptly. Without the existing businesses, we have no town.

The Board must also work closely with the Planning Board assuring the plans submitted will conform to the small town idealism which makes High-



**Larry Rogers**

lands great. I believe the Planning Board works very hard on this and their input must be taken seriously.

Dotson:

The underlying answer to this question is that by protecting what makes Highlands special, we promote quality economic development.

We are lucky enough to have an economic model that is governed by location – regional location, altitude location and US Forest Service proximity.

Hundreds of people drive from neighboring towns and communities every day to work in our area for three reasons:

- #1. The jobs are here.
- #2. The pay scale is better.
- #3. The working environment is good.

We have a vibrant economy, in a desirable location. The Town of Highlands must take great pains to foster a quality, sustainable growth level that does not strip us of our desirable "village" atmosphere.

Much hard work has gone into the Land Use Plans and subsequent amendments that have been proposed for the Town. A good plan, along with diligence to insure compliance will work wonders towards insuring the future of Highlands.

Marsh:

•See CANDIDATES page 38



## ... LETTERS continued from page 24

I have also brought it up to the N.C. State Police and actually got some agreement there, but that was the end of it. I understand also that these matters probably don't fit into the N.C. DOT criteria. I have no idea what their criteria is, but it should have something to do with promoting public safety. If it does not, they should pack it in and give the responsibility to some group that can get the job done. This criteria excuse is over-used and worn out.

I personally feel sorry for the semi-truck drivers who, due to improper warning, get expensive tickets. A lot of these truckers are flatlanders who have no idea what they are getting in to.

Other truckers which need addressing are some of the local dump truck drivers who do not seem to know where the edge of the road is and are frequently over the line. However, I have to say, the Rhodes Brothers drivers are pretty good.

Vern Jared  
Highlands

### School board oversimplifying bond issue

Dear Editor,

School superintendent Brigman and the Macon County school board must think we voters are slow learners. After weeks of public meetings to promote the \$42.1 million school bond referendum, we see fliers, yard signs, billboards, etc., which oversimplify the bond issue.

The board voted to give \$5,000 from the general fund account to market the issue to the public. However, they neglected to register as a political action committee or state who was paying for their message. Remember, the school board's full-time attorney stated he was "not at the meeting" and was "unsure about laws regulating the board's actions."

Superintendent Brigman said legal counsel had advised him the board had authority to "inform the public about bonds." The next day the attorney said he was not previously aware about the need to abide by North Carolina campaign finance statutes regarding campaign or referendum financing. Finally, he agreed the school board could "educate," not "advocate," and that their method was, indeed, advocating.

Terry Bell, director of auxiliary services, admitted in a statement to the *Franklin Press* on Oct. 12, 2007, that "a mistake was made when the campaign was launched and the school board began promoting the \$42.1 million school bond before a political action committee was formed." He said they were not aware that the committee had to

be formed due to a "lack of 'inexperience with political activities.'"

When it was realized a mistake had been made, the necessary steps were taken to follow state election law guidelines. Superintendent Brigman further stated, "We don't have anything to benefit from going around the law."

Now that they "realized a mistake had been made" will the school board and the Macon County commissioners please leave their rosy scenario behind and tell us how much the bond issue will really cost the taxpayers? They have the time — we don't vote until November 6.

If they can't do that, then pull the plug and start over next year during the general election when more people will likely vote. Or is it more advantageous to ramrod it through during an off-year election? Remember, deficits and bonds must be repaid with interest by taxpayers.

The school board and commissioners have seldom seen the feasibility of utilizing what we have, instead abandoning older schools that could be renovated at a lower cost than new construction. If their projections for future needs are as flawed as their recent judgment suggests, then Macon County taxpayers — present and future — will be saddled with unbelievable debt. A lesson on fiscal responsibility would be a good thing to teach Macon County students.

I am not anti-education. I returned to school in my 50s and obtained a college degree. Overcrowding of schools is not new to me either. My two children's schools in the 1960s resorted to double sessions. One child was at the bus stop at 6 a.m. in snowy Massachusetts and got home around noon. The other left at noon and got home around dark. It was difficult because my husband's job meant he traveled much of the time, and I worked part-time. No, we aren't outsiders — my husband's family has lived in Macon County for several generations, and I'm from east Tennessee.

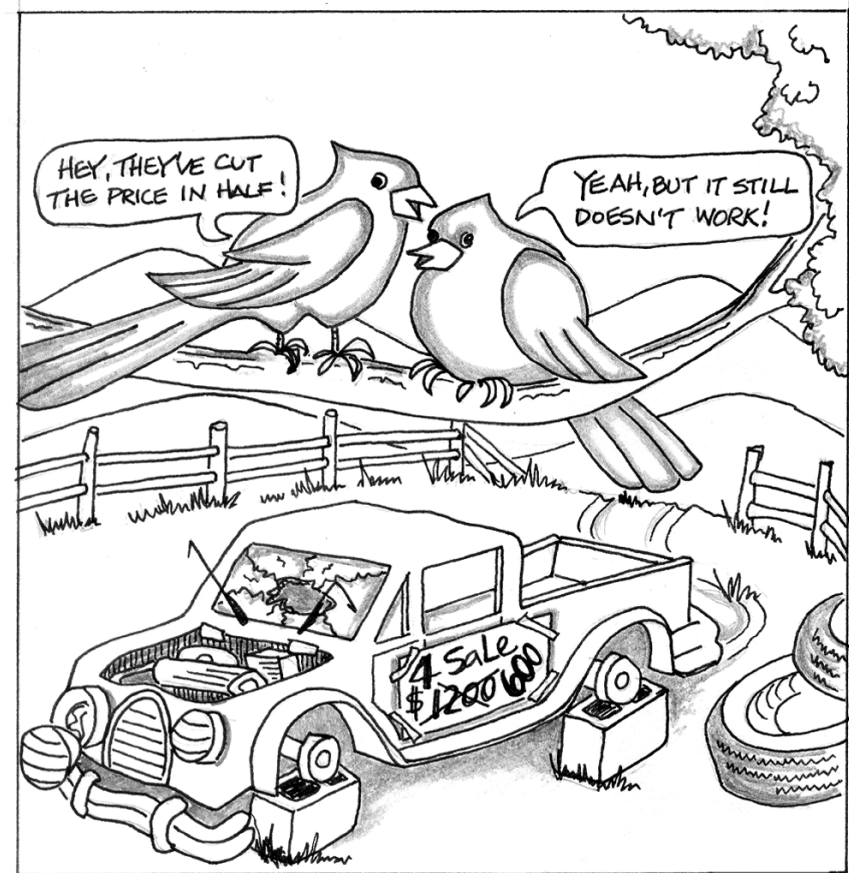
Now we taxpayers have the bond issues to fund, plus whatever fallout comes from the actions of the school board and its attorney. The guilt-trip the proponents of the bond measure tried to lay on us if we didn't vote "for the children" has far-reaching consequences.

A better example "for the children" would have been honest, open, above-board discussion — pro and con — on the bond issue.

As George W. Bush once lamented, "Is our children learning?" I hope they are, along with their parents and the voters. Most importantly, I have to wonder if Superintendent Brigman, the Macon County school board, and attorney John Henning have learned anything?

Doris Conley  
Otto

## Bargains are great but... Half of something that doesn't work, still doesn't work!



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## Painting proceeds for the arts at Highlands School



Bids on this 4-feet by 5-feet painting by artist Steve Penley are being taken through a silent auction at The Log Cabin Restaurant through Oct. 31. It's valued at \$7,500. For more information call Ashley Coppage at 787-1119 or 342-7012. Proceeds benefit the arts at the school.

### ... HIS & HERS continued from page 9

shadow creeping toward the porch. Not wanting to get John's hopes up yet, I waited in the dark until the animal got closer to the house. Finally, I had confirmation. It was our Big Boy. I ran into the living room. "It's Orion! I've seen Orion! Get a hold of Weasel, 'cause I'm opening the front door." I grabbed Orion's cat comb, and quietly tiptoed onto the porch. "Hello, Orion. Good boy. How's my sweetie?" I crooned. Orion looked at me hesitantly, then came forward to be combed. In fact, he was more interested in being combed than in eating. I remembered the last time Orion had escaped, and the weeks it had taken to get him back inside. This time I wasn't going to let this happen. I remembered watching rugby games in Europe, and grabbed Orion, tucked him under my arm, opened the door, and ran inside. I deposited a struggling cat on the floor. We both rushed for the open door, but I shut it before he escaped. Orion bolted through the house, and up the stairs. Oh, dear. This had happened before, that panic he'd felt at being trapped inside again, after days spent outdoors. It always made me feel bad. "Have you seen Orion?" I asked John. "Nope," he replied, "He's hiding upstairs, under the furniture."

About 10 minutes later, I climbed

the stairs, expecting to find a scared, traumatized cat. What I found instead was a contented housecat, sprawled across our bed, purring like a lawnmower. I lay down next to him, relieved and happy. In spite of my questions, he has refused to say where he was and if he ever intends to pull the same stunt, given the chance. That's what puzzles me about males. Even when their equipment is missing, they still want to prowl. Go figure. No matter. Orion's back home, and that's all that matters.

P.S. Want to know more about keeping cats indoors, and their danger to wildlife? Check out these links: <http://home.hiwaay.net/~keiper/indoors.htm> and <http://www.abcbirds.org/cats>. Have a lost cat? Go onto Google, and put in "cat, lost". The information is excellent.

• About the Author: Michelle A. Mead is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. Michelle is a member of the Highlands Writers Group. She is the besotted mother of two very spoiled housecats, Orion and Weasel. Both cats understand both English and French fluently, although their pronunciation leaves something to be desired.



## • STATE & FEDERAL POLITICS •

### Death of House member makes for short session

**By Congressman Heath Shuler**

The House of Representatives had a short week in session last week as another Member died. Jo Ann Davis of Virginia died from breast cancer on October 6. Ms. Davis was the fourth member of the House we have lost since January. My thoughts and prayers are with her family, friends, and constituents.

While in session last week, the House did tackle a number of important issues. The first issue being an effort to ensure that religious references are allowed on the certificates that accompany flags flown over the Capitol.

The issue surfaced when a young man, Paul Larochelle of Ohio, requested a flag be flown over the Capitol in honor of his grandfather's "dedication and love of God, Country and family."

Mr. Larochelle's certificate was returned from the Architect's office with the word "God" removed.

I believed that this restriction was an unnecessary restriction on our citizens' right to openly and freely practice their religion. These guidelines that govern the flag flying operation were developed and issued in 2003.

In response, I sent a letter to the Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi yesterday morning asking her to examine the policies and procedures of the Architect of the Capitol that were preventing the word "God," and other religious references from being on the certificates that the accompany flags flown over the Capitol.

My letter pointed out that the Congress has passed numerous resolutions recognizing the importance of religion in the lives of Americans and that the House of Representatives clearly supports the right of the people to openly practice their faith.

As a person of faith and an elected member of this Congress, I strongly disagreed with the Architect's prohibition of the word "God" from flag certificates and asked the Speaker to examine the authority under which he was making this policy.

I am happy to report that the Architect's Office revised the rules and the prohibition of religious language has been removed. I am extremely pleased that we have been able to end this restriction your right to openly practice your faith. I applaud Mr. Ayers for listening to the wishes of the American people and their elected representatives and revising the flag certificate policy so quickly.

On October 10 the House passed H.R. 3056, the Tax Collection Responsibility Act.

The Tax Collection Responsibility Act will remove the authority of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to privatize the collection of delinquent taxes. Currently, pri-

vate tax collectors are keeping 21 to 24 percent of the back taxes they collect, thereby incentivizing abusive tactics including intimidation and harassment. Our government should not be providing incentives to private firms to harass U.S. citizens.

Additionally, Congress has repeatedly heard testimony that IRS employees can do this work more efficiently and effectively. For every dollar that the federal government invests in IRS collection agents we see a return of 13-to-1. Meanwhile, private collection agencies only show a return of roughly 4-to-1 for every U.S. taxpayer dollar spent.

This was important, commonsense legislation. The bill passed the House with bipartisan support.

The House also passed H.R. 2895, the National Affordable Trust Fund Act. The goal of this legislation is to construct, rehabilitate, and preserve 1,500,000 units of housing over the next 10 years. The bill aims to do this by creating a grant program in coordination with state and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and faith-based organizations to help low-income families purchase their own homes.

The National Affordable Trust Fund Act passed with strong bipartisan support, 264-148.

The last major bill the House worked

### Armor to run against Shuler

**By John Armor**

Candidate for NC 11<sup>th</sup> District

Start with existing facts. The NC 11th District seat in Congress will be held by a rookie after the election of 2008, come what may. Democrat Heath Shuler is a rookie. Based on his level of knowledge and experience, he will still be a rookie if he returns to Congress.

Former Congressman Charles Taylor is still lurking in the bushes, not saying whether he will run again. There have been 13,000 elections involving incumbents since financial records were first required in 1976. Never has an incumbent outspent a challenger by more than \$1 million, or more than 50%, and then lost the election – unless the incumbent had been convicted of a particularly nasty crime within the last six months.

Let me repeat that. In 13,000 elections involving incumbents since 1976, NEVER has an incumbent in Taylor's position lost an election to a challenger. If Taylor runs again, he just may get the nomination. But if so he will lose to Heath Shuler again, by a wider margin. I think most residents of

• See POLITICS page 17

on last week was H.R. 400, the War Profiteering Prevention Act.


This bill will strengthen the tools Federal law enforcement agencies have to combat contracting fraud during times of war, or relief and reconstruction activities.

The bill creates a new criminal fraud offense in the United States Code for fraudulent acts that involve the providing of goods or services to our military in connection with their mission overseas.


It is unacceptable for any company to exploit our Nation's military in an attempt increase their own profits. Every additional dollar the government has to pay to a company engaged in profiteering is a dollar that cannot be spent on the genuine needs of our men and women in uniform.

The House passed this bill with overwhelming support, 375-3.

## • DAY TRIPS & EXCURSIONS •


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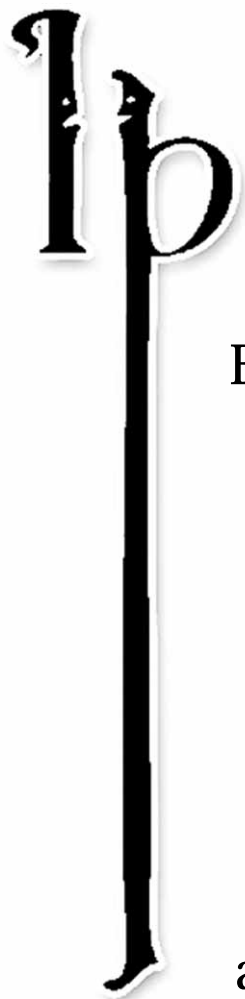

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# YARD SALE!

An ENTIRE houseful on sale!  
Beds, Linens, Antiques, Furniture,  
Pool Table and much more!

Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m.-4 p.m.,

Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> noon-4 p.m.

738 Flat Mountain Rd. in  
Highlands

*Sponsored by the Highlands  
Playhouse*

Contact Dianne Ray  
at 743-5625 for more information

## Men's soccer victory at Andrews



The men's soccer season is coming to an end, but there are still a handful of games to see at home on Zachary Field and away. On Wednesday, Oct. 10 the team beat Smoky Mountain Conference opponent Andrews; Thursday, Oct. 18 the team plays Hayesville, 7 p.m. at home on Zachary Field; Monday Oct. 22 it's against Blue Ridge, 4 p.m. at Blue Ridge; Wednesday, Oct. 24 is the last home game at 6 p.m. against Swain. Then it's on to the State playoffs which begin Wednesday, Oct. 31. Place to be announced.

Photo by Noel Atherton

## Sapphire Valley Art and Crafts Festival

Saturday, Oct. 20 and Sunday, Oct. 21  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

More than 90 artists and crafters displaying and  
demonstrating their original works  
Live Bluegrass Band • Food • Drinks

Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society Stopo 'n Adopt  
FREE ADMISSION AND PARKING

Route 64, 3 miles east of Cashiers

For more information, call 828-743-1163

### ... BRUGGER from pg 8

so), including most Western democracies. For an atlas of electoral systems: [worldpolicy.org/projects/globalrights/democracy/maps-pr.html](http://worldpolicy.org/projects/globalrights/democracy/maps-pr.html).

In addition, I have been learning some surprisingly positive things about parliamentary systems. For example, a World Bank-sponsored study found that corruption tends to be less in countries with parliamentary systems as opposed to American-style governments with an independent executive. "Accountability and Corruption: Political Institutions Matter" (November 2001)

There are no perfect systems of government. I believe that the vigorous debate of ideas always results in a better outcome. No one has a lock on the truth, or on how societies are best organized and governed. Through the input of multiple points of view across the entire spectrum from right to left we gain new perspectives on solving problems.

John F. Kennedy said, "We are not afraid to trust the American people with unpleasant facts, foreign ideas, alien philosophies, and competitive values. For a nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood in an open market is a nation that is afraid of its people."



• BUSINESS NEWS •

**Bush biographer Robert Draper to sign at Cyrano's; Tim Pegram signs 'The Blue Ridge Parkway by Foot,' Monica Henson's 'Unwritten'**

Robert Draper, news-making author of the bestselling "Dead Certain: The Presidency of George W. Bush" will be at Cyrano's on Friday, Oct. 19 from 5- 7 p.m.

In the New York Times, Michiko Kakutani said of Draper's "fascinating new book" that it gives "the reader an intimate sense of the president's personality and how it informs his decision making...In 'Dead Certain' Mr. Draper — a national correspondent for GQ magazine and a former Texas Monthly editor who wrote a lengthy profile of Mr. Bush, then governor of Texas, in 1998 — draws a detailed portrait, based on six hour-long interviews with the notoriously press-shy president and interviews with some 200 other sources, including Laura Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, former Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld and the senior adviser Karl Rove." And the Houston Chronicle said: "Dead Certain" is a literary Rorschach test. The more certain you are in your feelings about President Bush — positive or negative — the more visceral your reaction will be to this work. But if you believe the Bush presidency is somewhere between unblemished triumph and unmitigated disaster, you are likely to conclude that Draper's book is fair and balanced. He writes; you decide."

M.C. Henson, who will sign copies of her first novel, "Unwritten," on Saturday, Oct. 20 from 1-3 p.m. "M.C." is better known to her friends in Franklin and Highlands as Monica, a graphic artist and professional wedding photographer who also works at the Highlands Gem Shop. "Unwritten" is the story of intelligence agent Caroline Blaine, a woman torn by her love of God, family and a man she has no right to love but cannot forget. This mystery ranges from the mountains of Macon County — real-life home of the author—to Washington, D.C., Europe and the Middle East as Caroline finds herself in a perilous JAG adventure to recover stolen Navy property. The fast-paced plot provides a satisfying read.

In "The Blue Ridge Parkway by Foot: A Park Ranger's Memoir" Tim Pegram recounts his 41-day, 469-mile backpacking trip south along the scenic road in September and October of 2003. Pegram, who worked as a ranger on the Parkway for 12 years, also includes much history

and many anecdotes about this most visited unit of the National Parks system. From his first seasonal job on the Parkway during college (where, along with his wife, he worked at the Peaks of Otter Visitor Center) to long-term stints in the Roanoke and Balsam Gap Districts, the author has cherished the long ribbon of road riding the mountain crests of the southeast. As he walks towards the Smokies, Pegram recalls wildlife encounters, terrible car wrecks, winter snow storms and his fellow park employees and Appalachian neighbors who offered stories, advice and help over the years. "The Blue Ridge Parkway By Foot" is a well written book will attract all those interested in our mountains. Tim Pegram signs at Cyrano's from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 20.

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](mailto:cyranos@nctv.com); to learn more about our store please visit [www.cyranosbooks.com](http://www.cyranosbooks.com).

... BANNERS from pg 1

commercial zones, have a maximum surface area of nine (9) square feet, are posted in either in commercial windows or in a secure fashion on private property, and are posted not more than thirty (30) days prior to a scheduled event and removed within 24 hours after the event.”

Betz said merchants can also erect temporary signs for special sales under 405.1(A), "but they have to come by and get a permit first."

According to the ordinance: (A) Temporary signs, flags, or banners advertising the initial openings of business establishments or special sales, not to exceed four (4) signs per year, are permitted provided the location of such signs is approved by the Zoning Administrator and provided there shall be a minimum of thirty (30) days between display of such signs. Such signs shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet in surface area on one side and shall not be displayed longer than ten (10) days.

Betz said anyone with questions concerning banner and sign allowances in Highlands should call the Town Hall office at 526-4114. "I will be happy to explain it," he said.

-- **Kim Lewicki**



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## • UPCOMING EVENTS •

### On-going

• Auctions at Scudder's Galleries Monday-Saturday at 8 p.m. Viewing from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 352 Main St.

• Live music every night at 7:30 p.m. and during brunch on Sunday at ...on the Verandah restaurant.

• Nantahala Tennis Association: Meets Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m. -noon for Round Robin at Highlands Recreation Park. All levels of play welcome.

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

• Hal Philips at the piano at Skyline Lodge and Restaurant on Flat Mountain Road Fri. & Sat. at 6 p.m.

• Live music with Angie Jenkins, Friday and Saturday nights at Old Clayton Inn on Main Street in Clayton.

• 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](http://www.ncmana.org).

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

• 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.

• "The Circle of Life" support group continues at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital at the Jane Woodward room 201. It is designed for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. The group meets 10 a.m. until noon. For more information, call Barbara Buchanan at 526-1402 or Florence Flanagan at 743-2567.

### First Mondays

• 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

• Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Center.

• 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

• "The Bible Tells Me So" at 6:15 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church. The assigned readings for each week are taken from the book, "The Bible Tells Me So: uses and abuses of Holy Scripture" by Jim Hill and Rand Cheadle. This book is currently out-of-print so copies of each reading assignment will be handed out each week. The study will meet in the Fellowship Hall — beginning promptly at 6:15 and will last approximately one hour.

• Highlands MountainTop Rotary Club meets at the Highlands Conference Center at 7:30 a.m.

• Men's interdenominational Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church.

### Every Third Wednesday

• Study sessions at the Universal Unitarian Fellowship Hall in Franklin. A \$5 soup-supper will be served at 5:30 p.m.

## ITC's 2-week Comedy Festival starts Friday, Oct. 19

You won't have to listen real hard to hear laughter this weekend in downtown Highlands. A cacophony of guffawing will arise starting at 8 p.m., Friday, Oct. 19 in the Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main, from Highlands' very first Comedy Festival. Award winning funny man Al Ernst, King of the Carnival Comedy Cruises is bringing his "Laugh Pack." some of the nations top touring comics, to Highlands "third largest theatre" for five nights.

Friday night features impressionist Jim Gossett, comedy star/pianist extraordinaire Jerry Farber and Florida comic Gid Pool. Joining Al and his "Pack" will be Western Carolina's own Benny Skyn whose sound has been compared to Tom Waits, Woody Guthrie, John Prine and even Frank Zappa.

Saturday, Oct. 20, begins with a live radio broadcast of Al Ernst's Eman Nation Talk Show

on WSRQ 1220AM from Oak Square on Main Street Highlands. Tune in by going online to [www.talk1220.com](http://www.talk1220.com). From 1-3 p.m. adults get another chance to find out "What's Funny" in a "how to" comedy seminar. The evening performances features "one of the best kept secrets in comedy," Eric Hunter, also Greg Ray, aka Dr Babylon and welcomes back Gid Pool. One can read the credits of the aforementioned comedians in last week's Highlands Newspaper or google them. All the evenings are hosted by Al Ernst and jazzed up by the musical musings of the incredible Benny Skyn.

The second and final week of the Festival begins Thursday evening Oct. 25 at 8 p.m., host Al Ernst returns with Benny Skyn and feature touring funny-men Greg Ray and Mark Evans. Greg Ray, better known as Dr Babylon, author of "Men Are From Mars, Because Women Killed the Ones on Venus." The Doctors show is perfect for anyone in love as he brings a new way of looking at men, women, political correctness, and how logic works and doesn't work in relationship. Mark Evans brings his "Southern, Not Stupid" show to Festival audiences, blending humor and sarcasm which point out the lighter side of the dumb things we see and hear everyday. As he puts it, "We all either cause, or suffer from these random acts of stupidity! The humor is in finding out which one of these two categories we fall into."

Friday, Oct. 26, at 8 p.m., Al and Ben-

ny are back with featured performers Sonya King and Jamie Bendall. Several points of view can't begin to describe Jamie Bendall, the owner of one of the nation's top comedy clubs, The Punch Line in Atlanta. Jamie is a lawyer, licensed to practice in three states, a successful small business owner, sought after speaker and a funny family man. His performance brings up notes of Seinfeld and Newhart. Everyone caught in the fast lane of life will

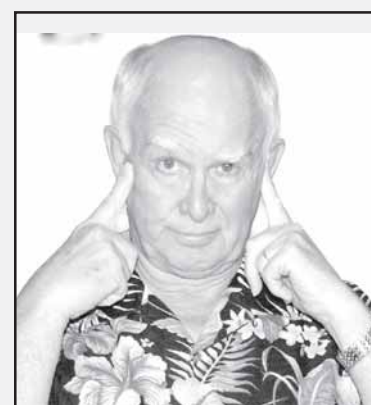
get a chance to stop and smell the laughter with the dead pan housewife Sonya King. She is a Carnival Comedy Challenge winner who has appeared on "Good Morning America," ABC's The View with Barbara Walters and Joy Behar, which lead to an appearance with Joy at the famed NYC Caroline's Comedy Club. Sonya has just returned from the Boston Comedy Festival where she

delighted audience with her unique view from life in the slow lane.

The last day of the ITC's Comedy Festival begins with a live radio broadcast of Al Ernst's Eman Nation Talk Show on WSRQ 1220AM from Oak Square on Main Street in Highlands. Starting at 10 a.m. in the Studio on Main 12 lucky children ages 10 to 16 will be offered a "Comedy for Kids" Seminar. From 1-3 p.m. 12 adventurous adults can learn to find the humor in everyday life, how to write jokes and how to develop their own style of delivery in a "Stand up Comedy" seminar. Beginning at 8PM Al hosts the final show of the Festival of Fun with the "The Last Laugh" featuring the return of Eric Hunter and Sonya King with music by Benny Skyn.

Al promises no two shows will be alike and all will be cutting edge clean. Now is the chance to experience the world of stand up comedy through different styles, attitudes and points of view. All show tickets are \$25 for adults and \$12.50 for 17 years old and younger. Seating is very limited, reservations are highly recommended. Adult seminars are \$30 each or two for \$50. "Comedy for Kids" seminar is \$15.

The Instant Theatre Company is located in the Studio on Main, Oak Square, 310 Main Street upstairs (there is an elevator close by). Reservations can be made by calling 828-342-9197. Seating is limited.



Gid Pool

## HIARPT begins 2007-2008 Series

HIARPT's annual October to May "Tuesday Dialogue" will begin on October 30. All sessions will be held at the Highlands Civic Center from 10-11:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome to participate. However, we do expect participants to read the material before the session. Information can be secured from Creighton Peden at [cphi2@verizon.net](mailto:cphi2@verizon.net) or 828-526-4038 or from David Scheyer at [scheyer@peoplepc.com](mailto:scheyer@peoplepc.com).

Oct. 30: "Inside India—A Personal Journey" by Diane Mc Phail. Information for the Nov. 13 Dialogue will be distributed at this session.

Nov. 6: Voting Day, No Session

Nov. 13: Charles Taylor's *Varieties of Religion Today*, chapter three. (Distributed on Oct. 30) Coordinator: Tom Parker.

Nov. 20: No Session, Thanksgiving Week

Nov. 27: George Santayana's "Lucretius." "Gateway to the Great Books," vol. 10, *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. Coordinator: Don McCormick. (Copy will be distributed on Nov. 13.)

Dec. 4: "Henry Wadsworth Longfellow." Coordinator: Bill West. (Copies of selected poems will be distributed at an earlier session.)

Dec. 11 "Reflections on Human Rights" by Sidney Hook. *Free Inquiry*, Vol. 27, No. 5, pp. 28-31. Coordinator: Creighton Peden (Copies distributed at earlier session.)

Dec. 18 William Bridges' *Transitions*. Coordinator: John and Ad Carr. Paperback book to be purchased by each individual.

Dec. 25 No session



# • UPCOMING EVENTS •

## HCP's 'Raindrop Waltz' opens Thursday, Oct. 18, runs next week-end, too



Grandmother Agnes, played by Sue Manning, and grandson Jody Lee, played by Colin Long, share a twilight moment on the porch of the old homestead in the Highlands Community Players upcoming play, "The Raindrop Waltz," opening Thursday, October 18. The play was written by Gary Carden of Sylva NC who will introduce each performance and play a part in the play, which runs October 18 thru 21 and 25 thru 28 at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street in Highlands. Evening performances start at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday matinees, at 2:30. The HCP box office is open Monday thru Saturday, 10 till 4. For reservations, call 526-8084.

Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9964.

### Every Thursday

- At Main Street Inn, Lisa Price piano and vocals in the wine bar 6-9 p.m.

- Al-Anon Meetings, noon in the First Presbyterian Church basement at Fifth & Main Street.

- Women's Bible Study at 9:30 am - 11:45 am at Community Bible Church. Beth Moore's **Believing God**. All women are invited.

### Every Saturday

- 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.

### Every Friday

- The Girls' Clubhouse meets in the school cafeteria 3-4:30 p.m. All 6-8 grade girls are welcome. Come have fun while serving others. For more information, call Kim Lewicki 526-0782.

### Through Saturday, Oct. 16-20

- At Bascom-Louise Gallery, "Artist's Photo Reference," taught by internationally known color pencil painter Gary Greene, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Class begins with a photographic field trip,

followed by a return to the classroom. All levels of expertise are welcome. The cost is \$350 (\$315 for art center members). For more information, call Bascom-Louise Gallery at (828) 526-4949, ext. 4

### Thursday-Sunday, Oct. 18-21

- Highlands Community Players production "The Raindrop Waltz" at PAC. 8 p.m. or 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Call 526-8084 for tickets.

### Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 18-20

- The Instant Theatre Company's Comedy Festival featuring funny man Al Ernst and other national stand-up comedians with music by Benny Skyn. Call 828 342-9197 for more info beginning Oct. 1.

### Thursday, Oct. 18

- Wine Tasting and Silent Auction Fundraiser for HUMC Holy Land trip at 6 p.m. at the Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop. It will include a wine and cheese tasting, silent auction and presentation on the trip to the Holy Land. A portion of the profits of any sales that evening will go towards the fund raising efforts. That portion amount will be matched 100% by an anonymous donor!

- Steele/Shooting Star Vineyards Wine dinner at OEI's The Farm. Each dinner is \$169 per person, inclusive of tax and gratuity. Call 828-787-2604.

- Public forums on Macon County

School System Building Plan 7-8 p.m., at Nantahala School gym. An opportunity for all stakeholders to provide the district leadership and Board of Education with feedback regarding the Plan.

- The Macon County Public Health flu vaccination clinics for adults and healthy\* children age 9 and older. Appointments are not needed for these clinics and vaccine will be given on a first come, first served basis. Individuals unable to wait in line may have someone wait in line for them and a nurse will take vaccine to their vehicle. 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center in Highlands. The cost for the vaccine is \$25. The health center will bill Medicare and Medicare replacements, BCBS, and Cresent, so bring your card for these. \*Free vaccine for high-risk children and pregnant women will be available at a later date. This includes all children 6 to 59 months of age and those with certain medical conditions. For more information about flu clinics, call the Macon County Public Health Center at 349-2081.

### Friday & Saturday, Oct. 19 & 20

- Annual Fall Craft Sale at The Kountry Krafters of Coweeta Baptist Church. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, and 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. 780 Coweeta Church Road in Otto. To benefit the building program.

### Friday, Oct. 19

- At Cyrano's Bookshop, author Robert Draper will sign "Dead Certain: The Presidency of George W. Bush" from 5-7 p.m.

### Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 20-21

- Art League of Highlands "Fall Colors Fine Art Show" at the Civic Center Recreation Park in Highlands, NC, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fine original art, jewelry, photography and much more by over 40 artists. Art activities for kids both days in the Children's Art Room. Free admission. Door prizes. For information call Karen Taylor at 828-526-2177 or Dottie Bruce at 828-743-7673.

- Yard Sale! An ENTIRE houseful on sale! Beds, Linens, Antiques, Furniture, Pool Table and much more! 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Located at 738 Flat Mountain Rd.

in Highlands Sponsored by the Highlands Playhouse Contact Dianne Ray at 743-5625 for more information.

### Saturday, Oct. 20

- At Cyrano's Bookshop, author M.C. Henson will sign "Unwritten" from 1-3 p.m. and Tim Pegram will sign The Blue Ridge

• See EVENTS page 36

## The Raindrop Waltz

A story of Southern Appalachia  
by Gary Carden, Playwright & Storyteller  
Directed by Virginia Talbot  
Sponsored in part by "The Laurel Magazine"

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## Highlands, NC Culinary Weekend

**November 8 - 11, 2007**

Join Highlands' restaurants, shops, and inns for four days of indulgence and an array of unique events, instructional classes, tastings, and specialty dinners.

**866-526-5841**  
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## • UPCOMING EVENTS •

### 'Fall Colors Fine Art Show' at Highlands Civic Center Saturday and Sunday



**Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 20-21**, the Art League of Highlands "Fall Colors Fine Art Show" at the Civic Center Recreation Park in Highlands, NC, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fine original art, jewelry, photography and much more by over 40 artists. Art activities for kids both days in the Children's Art Room. Free admission. Door prizes. For information call Karen Taylor at 828-526-2177 or Dottie Bruce at 828-743-7673.

Parkway by Foot: A Park Ranger's Memoir from 3-5 p.m.

- Mirror Lake Improvement Association Litter Pick-up Saturday at 9 a.m. Meet at Thorn Park.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3.5 mile moderate hike from the upper Whitewater Falls to the Bad Creek Reservoir parking area. There will be some scrambling over roots and rocks, but great views of the falls and in the gorge below. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10:00 a.m. Drive 40 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 4.5 mile hike from Wayah Crest to Sawmill Gap on the Appalachian and Bartram trails with an elevation gain of 1,000 feet and great views. Drive 25 miles with a short car shuttle. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 9:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Bill Van Horn, 369-1983, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

- REACH Of Macon County's Motorcycle Poker Run features a 70 mile colorful trip through some of Western North Carolina's most beautiful scenery. A hand

is \$25 with additional hands available for \$10. The run begins at Franklin Ford on US 441 N of Franklin, between 8:30 am and 10 am. The run proceeds from Franklin Ford to downtown Franklin, then out NC 28N to the intersection of US 19. The run turns left at the intersection and goes to the Intersection of US 19 and the Wayah Road. Riders follow the Wayah Road to the intersection of Old US 64 W and the ride concludes at REACH's Meadow Lark Farm on Old US 64 W. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and closes at 10 am. For additional information or advance registration, call 828-369-0854

- Sapphire Valley Art & Crafts Festival 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. More than 90 artists and crafters, demonstrations, live Blue Grass, food, drinks. On U.S. 64, 3 miles east of Cashiers. Call 743-1163 for information.

#### **Sunday, Oct. 21**

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 2-mile hike on a pretty loop trail around Lake Chatuge and up a small mountain in Jack Rabbit Mt. State Park in Georgia. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2:00 p.m. Drive 55 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

#### **Tuesday, Oct. 23**

- Public forums on Macon County School System Building Plan 7-8 p.m., at South Macon Elementary School gym. Driving questions and aims to be addressed: What are our *Priorities* within the school system Facilities Plan? Why did we establish these *Priorities*? How will the *Plan* be carried out? Provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to provide the district leadership and Board of Education with feedback regarding the plan.

- N.C. Christian Women's Connection dinner with fashion show, music by Fashionable Melodies and speaker Mary Moore speaking on "Finding Peach in the Ashes of My Expectation" at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Building in Franklin. Call Georgann at 369-9117 by noon Oct. 18 for reservations.

- Highlands is sponsoring a "Candidates' Forum" at the Highlands Community Center from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

#### **Wednesday, Oct. 24**

- High Mountain Squares will dance from 7-9 p.m. at the Macon County Community Building on Georgia Rd (441S). The callers will be Ricky Simpson from Martin, GA. We dance Modern Western Style square dancing. All visitors are welcome. For more information call: 349-0905 or 369-8344.

#### **Thursday & Friday, Oct. 25-26**

- The Instant Theatre Company's Comedy Festival featuring funny man Al Ernst and other national stand-up comedians with music by Benny Skyn. call 828 342-9197 for tickets.

#### **Friday-Sunday, Oct. 26-28**

- Highlands Community Players production "The Raindrop Waltz" at PAC. 8 p.m. or 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Call 526-8084 for tickets.

#### **Saturday, Oct. 27**

- Highlands School Fun Run at 10 a.m.

- Highlands School Fall Festival 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the school.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 3-mile hike from Albert Mt. to Betty Creek. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 8 a.m. Drive 35 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, a hiking stick, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader George Gover, 349-1509, for information. No pets please.

- Giant Used Purse Sale and Bake Sale Macon County Community Building, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hundreds of purses including some Coach, Burberry, Liz, Louis Vuitton, D&B and more! Special Table with new purses donated by businesses in Franklin and Highlands. Sponsored by First Alliance Church to benefit The Dorcas House in Burkina Faso, Africa. Call 369-7977 to donate.

#### **Sunday, Oct. 28**

- Western Carolina Music Department Faculty Showcase performance at the First Presbyterian Church at 4 p.m. Featured are Ian Jeffress, saxophone, Shannon Thompson, clarinet, and Andrew Adams, piano performing "Unity" a selection for saxophone, clarinet and piano composed by WCU faculty member Timothy Rolbs. The concert is free in the sanctuary with a

### WCU Faculty Showcase performance at Presbyterian Church Sunday, Oct. 28

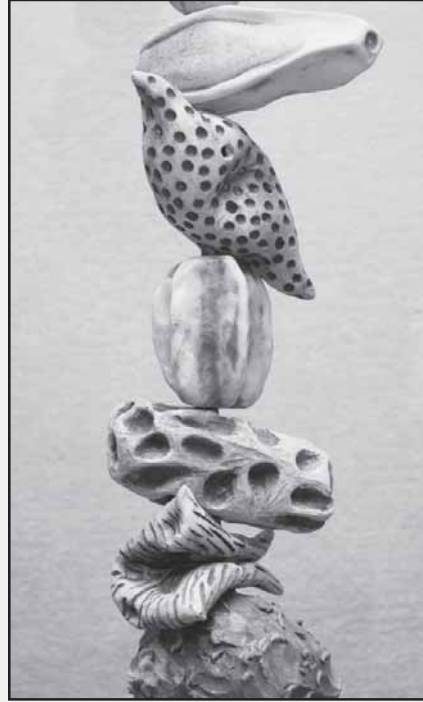


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## • UPCOMING EVENTS •

### Juried exhibit at Bascom-Louise Gallery through Nov. 21



Bascom-Louise Gallery's 2007 Juried Exhibit, set for Oct. 20 to Nov. 21, is a prestigious annual event that showcases fine art and craft from the Southeastern United States. This year's show promises to be a splendid array of oil, watercolor, acrylic, fiber art and much more, including Julyan Davis's "Lexington Avenue Michelle," left, and Jessica Stewart's earthenware and cherry totem pole, "Organic Totem," right. Many of the works will be offered for sale. The public is invited to the opening, set for 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 20. The Bascom-Louise Gallery is located inside the Hudson Library, in Highlands, at 554 Main Street. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call (828) 526-4949, ext. 3#.

reception following.

#### Monday & Tuesday, Oct. 29-30

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

#### Monday, Oct. 29

- Art League of Highlands monthly meeting at the Highlands Rec Park. Kaye Gorecki, Executive Director for the Bascom-Louise Fine Art Center will speak on "Artistic Partnership." She will update the group on progress of the Fine Art Center on Oak Street and propose exciting ways artists can be involved in the Center, which is to be completed in about a year. Refreshments at 5 p.m. followed by the meeting and program. All are welcome. For info call Priscilla Flowers at 828-526-4146.

#### Wednesday, Oct. 31

- At Instant Theatre Company Hurricane Creek Halloween Dance. Call 828

342-9197 for tickets.

- Little ghosts, goblins, and spooks of every type are invited to The Fidelia Eckerd Living Center this Halloween for the center's annual Trick-or-Treat. To not compete with the Highlands downtown festivities later that evening, youngsters are invited to dress up and come to the Living Center (on the Hospital campus) between the hours of 3-5 p.m. As in past years, residents will be handing out candy. There is no charge for the event.

#### Saturday, November 3

- The Macon County Public Health flu vaccination clinics for adults and healthy\* children age 9 and older. Appointments are not needed for these clinics and vaccine will be given on a first come, first served basis. Individuals unable to wait in line may have someone wait in line for them and a nurse will take vaccine to their vehicle. 9 a.m. to noon. at the Highlands Civic Center in Highlands. The cost for the vaccine is \$25. The health center will bill Medicare and Medicare replacements, BCBS, and Cresent, so bring your card for these. \*Free vaccine for high-risk children and pregnant women will be available at a later date.

This includes all children 6 to 59 months of age and those with certain medical conditions. For more information about flu clinics, call the Macon County Public Health Center at 349-2081.

#### Thursday-Sunday, Nov. 8-11

- The Chamber of Commerce presents "Cooking Central" at the First Annual Highlands Culinary Weekend. Highlands area restaurants, accommodations, and merchants will partner to present in-

structional culinary courses/classes, tastings, and outdoor activities. Call 866-526-5841 or 526-5841.

#### Sunday, Dec. 2

- East Coast Girls Volleyball showcase for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade girls at the Greensboro Sportsplex from noon-4 p.m. \$40 per player before Nov. 5; \$60 per player thereafter. Call Lucky Dog Volleyball at 877-665-6661.

## First Annual Highlands' Culinary Weekend Nov. 8 - 11

It's almost here! The opening reception of the First Annual Highlands' Culinary Weekend at Pine Street Park - November 8 at 7 p.m.—the toast of a magnificent event filled weekend, is fast approaching. Participating restaurants, chefs and wineries will be serving up delicacies including oven roasted lamb chops, mini lobster and crab cakes, wild game antipasta & spicy Indonesian shrimp. The experience will be a chance to embrace an amazing night of food, wine and fun in the beautiful mountains of Highlands, North Carolina. Tickets are still available for this kick-off event and can be purchased by contacting the Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center at 866-526-5841.

"There has been a great buzz around town and the weekend's events have been filling up and selling out. We are delighted with the response," said Marlene Alvarez, owner of ...on the Verandah restaurant and a member of the Board of Directors of the Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center. "We are looking forward to a successful event that will become an annual premiere food and wine experience and showcase the beauty that is Highlands!"

Enjoy the cuisine of many of Highlands' finest eateries including Cyprus Restaurant, Fireside Restaurant, Fressers Eatery, Lakeside Restaurant, Old Edwards Inn and Spa, Oak Street Café, ...on the Verandah, Ristorante Paoletti, Sweet Treats, The Log Cabin Restaurant, and Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro.

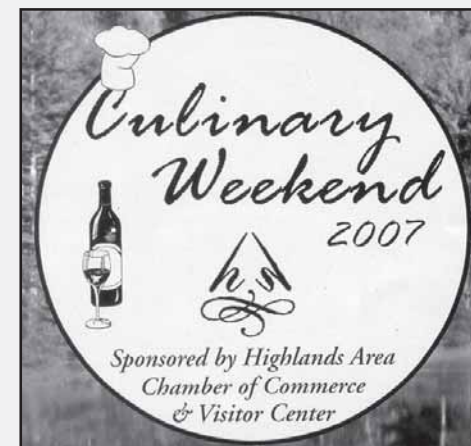
Participating wineries, distributors and importers include Appellation Wine Company, Beam Wines Estates, Billington Wines, Biltmore Estates Wines, The Country Vintner, Crew Wine Company, Dionysus, Empire Distributors of North

Carolina, Empson USA, Frederick Wildman & Sons, Gallo, Grapevine Imports, Grapevine of North Carolina, The Grateful Palate Australian Imports, J Lohr Wine Estates, Laurent Perrier Champagne, Mutual Distributing Company, Napa Ridge, Harlow Ridge and Salmon Creek, Olde World Wines, Pacific Southern Wines, Patz & Hall Winery, Rosemount Estate, San Francisco Wine Exchange, SDG Selections, Skyland, Southern Slopes, Tryon, Vin Divino, Vine Connections Fine Argentinean Wines & Japanese Sake, Vineyards Brands, Wilson Daniels, Wimbledon Wine Company, Winebow and Leonardo LoCascio Selections.

The First Annual Highlands Culinary Weekend is sponsored by the Highlands Area

Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Center, the *Laurel Magazine*, *WNC Magazine*, WHLC 104.5 FM, Views Magazine, Lakeside Restaurant, Log Cabin Restaurant, A Moment in Time Photography, Stözle-USA, Artsource, Inn at Half Mile Farm, Oak Street Café, Old Edwards Inn & Spa, ...on the Verandah Restaurant, Oxford Properties LLC, Cool Cats Hot Dogs Boutique, Cyranos' Bookshop, Harry Norman Realtors, Macon Printing, The Instant Theater Company and The Old Rangoon.

The Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Center is a catalyst for planning, programs, and services that promote a favorable business and visitors climate while nurturing the natural beauty and cultivating the uniqueness that is Highlands. The Highlands Visitor Center is open Monday-Friday from 9:00am-5 p.m. For more information or to be a part of the First Annual Highlands Culinary Weekend, please call 866-526-5841 or 828-526-5841 or view the event webpage at [www.highlandschamber.org](http://www.highlandschamber.org).





## ... CANDIDATES continued from page 28

The vision statement in the Planning Board's 2005 land use plan states, "We envision an attractive mountain community, which is founded on the beauty of the plateau's natural environment, the uniqueness of Highlands' village character, and the richness of the area's culture and history."

I believe this is the best way to continue to foster economic prosperity in Highlands and protect what makes Highlands special. I will work hard to continue this vision.

### Rogers:

We need to construct a road map to guide us toward strong and sensible economic development that will benefit all of our residents and also benefit the business community as a whole.

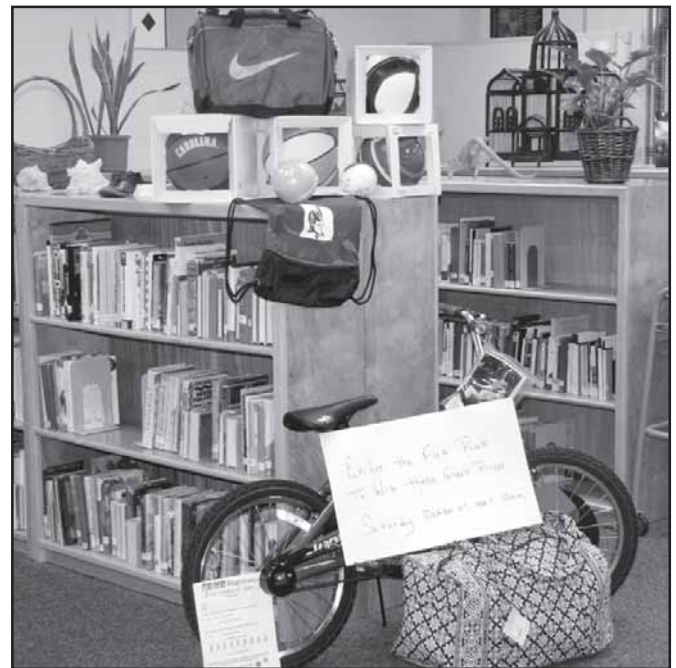
Everyone has so many needs and wants, that sometimes there can be a shortage of goods, services and even time

to satisfy the choices we make. Economics is simply the study of making choices, short term vs. long term. When it comes to building and operating a great town like Highlands, we, the community and town officials, are all equal partners working toward a common goal. That goal is to allow Highlands to grow, but not to forget that the people that make up this small town are just as important as the growing process.

The Highlands people have always been friendly and considerate of one another. They are willing to do whatever it takes to help their neighbor, as well as someone that just has a need. I like the thought of knowing that Highlands is my "hometown", because even though it may look differently than it once did, the people are still the same.

## Annual Fun Run is Sat. Oct. 27

Winners of the Highlands School Fun Run which is Saturday, Oct. 27 which starts at 10 a.m. at the new gym, are in for lots of treats. Prizes of all kinds - for boys and girls - are on display in the media center. To register, pick up form at the school office or call 526-4499. \$10 for children \$15 for adults. Proceeds go to the school.



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## HELP WANTED

**CONTROLLER NEEDED** - for Bascom-Louise Gallery, Highlands' nonprofit art center. Degree accountant desirable. Ideal candidate will be a highly qualified, team-inspired self-starter who will assume full responsibility for all accounting functions. Send resume and recent salary history to jconnor\_bascomlouise@verizon.net.

**GALLERY SHOP MANAGER** - sought for Bascom-Louise Gallery. Full-time. Retail experience a must; management experience preferred. Email cover and resume to jconnor\_bascomlouise@verizon.net

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES** — Highlands United Methodist Church, a 426-member church in western North Carolina, is seeking a fulltime Director of Music Ministries. The Director will be responsible for planning and coordinating all activities related to the music ministry of the church, including music for worship services, adult choir, handbell choirs, and children's and youth music programs. The Director will work in conjunction with the Pastor and supervise music staff and volunteers. Baccalaureate degree in music or commensurate experience in choral conducting required, as well as strong interpersonal and organizational skills. Submit resumes to Search Committee, humc@dnnet.net or PO Box 1959, Highlands, NC 28741.

**DENTAL ASSISTANT POSITION** — with the Macon County Public Health Center. Salary starting at \$21,288 annual, plus benefits. Please apply to the NC Employment Security Commission. Application Deadline: September 19, 2007.

**HIGHLANDS FALLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MANAGER** — Position involves overseeing office administrative activities, operation and maintenance of water and sewer utilities systems, roads, landscaping, security, and new and renovation home construction. Submit resume and three references to hfcasearch@yahoo.com or by mail to

HFCA Search Committee, PO Box 128, Highlands NC 28741.

**EVENING SERVER** — Good wages, friendly work environment. Apply in person at Skyline Lodge & Restaurant or call 828-526-2121.

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH** is currently accepting resumes for a full-time office position. Computer skills, people skills and creative abilities are needed. Call for more info 526-4685.

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL**. Responsibilities include assisting with the technical aspects of the hospital IT system, phone system, and network. Must be able to troubleshoot problems with the network and peripheral equipment, including problems with hardware and software. Should have a two year degree in computer science. Experience in network operations, Microsoft Office skills, network protocol terms and usage, with network switches and routers, and a working knowledge of Microsoft Exchange preferred. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://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, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 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](http://www.hchospital.org).

**CNA OR CNA II AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER**. Full-time, Part-time, and PRN positions for day and night shifts. Our wage scale is \$11.00 to \$14.40 per hour, and you also receive shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of employment. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

**EARN WHILE YOU LEARN!** Are you interested in a new career? Become a Certified Nursing Assistant for Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. C.N.A. classes will start on Wednesday, November 7, 2007. Students will be paid while in class Mondays through Fridays for 6 hours a day. Upon graduation and successful completion of the exam, students will become a Certified

Nursing Assistant and will receive a substantial increase in pay. Excellent benefit package after 30 days. Pre-employment substance screening. If interested in joining a dynamic healthcare team, call Robin Houston at 828-526-1317, Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301, or apply online through our website at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

**RN OR LPN NEEDED AT A PHYSICIANS' OFFICE WITH HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL**. Full-time, Monday-Friday position. Requires experience working in a clinic or physicians' office. General Surgery background preferred. Good communication, organizational, and computer skills a must. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

**PHYSICIAN OFFICE ASSISTANT WITH HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL**. Full-time, Monday-Friday position. Requires experience working in a clinic or physicians' office. General Surgery background preferred. Good communication, organizational, and computer skills a must. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

**PHYSICIAN OFFICE ASSISTANT/ BILLING WITH HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL**. Full-time, Monday-Friday position. Requires experience working in a clinic or physicians' office. Orthopedic background preferred. Good communication, organizational, and computer skills a must. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

## LOST

**SMALL BLACK HARD CASE PURSE** at the JMCA Fall Fest at Highlands Falls CC Saturday Oct. 13. Call Katherine Collany at 526-9012 or 863-412-0857.

**BLACK LONG-HAIRED CAT**. Last seen near Oak and Main streets. Call Ellie at 526-5764.

## WORK WANTED

**LOOKING FOR A HOUSEKEEPER?** Call: Manuela at 526-9586 (Highlands) Raquel Dugan at 524-4052 (Franklin) also, Experienced Truck Driver Seeks Full Time Employment: Please call 828-524-4052, or call the International Friendship Center

to see how we can help! 828-526-9938 x 290.

## YARD SALE

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY, OCT. 20-21** — An ENTIRE houseful on sale! Beds, Lins, Antiques, Furniture, Pool Table and much more! 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Located at 738 Flat Mountain Rd. in Highlands. Sponsored by the Highlands Playhouse. Contact Dianne Ray at 743-5625 for more information.

## FOR RENT

**DAYLIGHT BASEMENT APARTMENT** — One year lease, 3 minutes from H-C Hospital. Recently renovated. Fully furnished. 1 bed, 1 bath, kitchen, dining room, living room, W/D, cable connection, fireplace. \$600 includes water, sewer, electricity. Single-family. References required. No pets. No smoking. Call Jim at 770-789-2489.

**ON MIRROR LAKE** — Charming 3 bed, 2 bath. Huge sunroom, stone fireplace, 3 decks, canoe, furnished. Available Nov-May. \$1500 a month plus utilities. Call 770-435-0678.

**COTTAGE FOR RENT** — 1BR, 1BA in town @ Chestnut Cottages. Private, screen porch, Heat/AC, FP, extra sleeping loft, furnished or unfurnished. 6 month lease - \$850. monthly plus utilities.

**SKY VALLEY RESORT** — 2 bed/2 bath with fireplace. Completely furnished. \$800/month inclusive with utilities, cable, phone and more. Also available, one bed, one bath for \$600 a month. Available through June 15. Call 772-321-9620.

**HOUSE FOR SALE WITH "RENT TO BUY" OPTION** — In town. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 decks. \$975/month. Sales Price: \$259,000. Ownership arrangement negotiable. Call Jimmy at 970-819-3815.

**COMMERCIAL** — Warehouse, 1,000 sq. ft. Cashiers Road. Call 526-4154.

**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.

## VACATION RENTAL

**HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB** — Sorry, golf and club privileges not available. \$2,495 a week. Call 912-230-7202.

**CUTE 3 BED/2 BATH** Mirror lake home \$1,350-\$1,550 + utilities a month, less than mile from Main Street. Call 770-977-5692

**THE LODGE ON MIRROR LAKE** — Fish or canoe from deck. Available week-  
•See CLASSIFIEDS page 40



## • CLASSIFIEDS •

ly, monthly, 3-day min. Call 828-342-2302.

**ON LAKE SEQUOYAH** – Three master suites with jetted tubs and showers, sleeping nook with private bath, 4 fireplaces, 2 living areas, newly renovated. Private dock with canoe and firepit. Call 828-342-2302.

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In a picturesque mountain setting. Combine the pleasures of a secluded mountain valley and high mountain real estate. Live on your own farm with 30 acres of pastures, two barns, a remodeled main house, and a new log cabin for guests. Develop the rest. Streams and creeks throughout. Twelve mountain lots, each with spectacular views from 3,000 to 3,800 feet, are platted and served by all-season roads. All this within 20 minutes (via a soon to be paved State Road) of the historic downtowns of Sylva and Franklin. Nothing like it in the whole region. Call: 828-349-4465

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**COZY COTTAGE PRICED TO SELL.** — Features: 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, wood burning fireplace, tongue and groove ceilings, hardwood floors, whirlpool tub in master bath, full finished basement great for entertaining or as guest quarters. This beautiful home is located on 3 acres in a gated community with State Road paved access under construction. Enjoy the noisy stream from your large deck, take a hike into USFS from your private hiking trail or sit back and relax to the magnificent views from the community gazebo on top of the ridge. This home is a must see if you are looking for beauty, privacy and seclusion — a true sanctuary. \$329,000 — See photos at [www.SanctuaryNC.com](http://www.SanctuaryNC.com). Call (828) 349 4465. Homes sites available.

**BEAUTIFUL RV/PARK MODEL LOT** — Falls View Resort. Dillard, GA. \$72,000 706-746-0002

**LOT — COWEE RIDGE ROAD,** Highlands (off Hwy. 64). 4,500 ft. elevation. Great views, Two acres. Southern exposure. 4 bedroom septic installed, community water, paved road, gated community. \$300,000 Firm. Call 478-741-8818. FSBO.

**LOOKING FOR LAND?** We are located only 3 miles from Main Street Highlands. Take Hwy. 106 south toward Dillard go 1.8 miles just past the signs for Glenn Falls turn right on Mountain Laurel Dr., take

the first left (Moonlight) 100' and turn right at our entrance on Falling Water Dr. There are two waterfalls as you enter the property but the drought has made them just a trickle. Our home sites are one to one and a half acres and afford a good deal of privacy. The land is very gentle, you can easily walk in this neighborhood, and there are mature hard woods, with lots of Rhodies and Mountain Laurel. We are off the main road enough so it is nice and quiet—no road noise. The property is protected by the North Carolina Planned Community covenants and is designed to protect your value and maximize the enjoyment of your community. Home values range from \$850,000 to \$1,800,000 - home sites start at \$179,000. Broker protected 7% - owner financing available for more info 828-526-9622

**RV LOT** — North Carolina Mountains: At Lake Toxaway Lot and 1/2 Beautifully Landscaped with Stone Work and Plantings Yearly Fees \$350. \$120,000. 863-651-1411

**COACH CLUB HIGHLANDS NC** — Chestnut Street. Gated Motor Coach resort lot in town Very nice 200 sq. ft. Lindal Cedar Coach House. Fully Landscaped with Extensive patio area. Outdoor kitchen, gas fire pit, overlooking 85 ft of stream Rare find. 828-787-1014 or 352-258-4187

**CREEK IS FREE!** — With the purchase of one or both of these wooded parcels, just off Highway 28 in the NE Georgia mountains within 15 minutes of Highlands. 1.09 acres and/or 1.10 acres on a county-maintained road. Serious inquiries only. Please call 864-710-4577 for information.

**IN TOWN** — 3 bedroom, 2 bath, stream, large level yard. Easy walk to Main Street. \$450,000, by owner. Call 828-226-6123.

**HOUSE FOR SALE (ISLAMORADA, FLORIDA)** — Two bedroom, one and 1/2 bath conch house for sale at Mile Marker 86, near Founders Park on Oceanside. House sits on a 8,520 square foot lot in a great subdivision with a public boat ramp on the next street over. Founders Park, which is across the street, has a park with a boat ramp, marina, pool, beach, tennis courts, etc. Great deal — owner moving out of state. \$475,000. Call 305-852-4369 for more info.

**OCEAN FRONT** — Beautiful home in Surf City, N.C. zoned residential/commercial. Walk to pier and town. 7-bed, 4 full baths. Separate apartment. Good rental income. Call 919-340-2280.

**LAKEFRONT ACRE IN SCALY** — \$25,000 OBO. Details. P.O. Box 260789, Pembroke Pines, FL, 33026.

**COMMERCIAL FOR SALE** — Log cabin at crossroads in Cashiers for sale or lease. Call 526-4154.

**COMMERCIAL FOR SALE** — 3 acres.

U.S. 64 frontage, cashiers Road. 2 acres, 3 warehouses, good income. Call 526-4154.

**HOUSE FOR SALE** — HFCC 2 story split, 3/2, large lot, lake, golf course, mountain views, membership available but optional. \$795,000. Call 526-4154.

**LAND BY OWNER** — 3/4 acre lot. Close to Toan. Very, very, level building lot. Community water available. \$79,000. Call Ginger at 828-526-4959.

**OCEANFRONT LOT KEY LARGO, FLORIDA** — Cleared, buildable with all services. Last unimproved lot in Silver Shores subdivision. \$599,900. For information and photos call Frank (954) 964-7649 or email [ft442@bellsouth.net](mailto:ft442@bellsouth.net).

**NC. OTTO. 38 ACRES** 10 miles from Georgia State line, high elevation, big views, driveway and homesite cleared call owner, 770-952-9100

**NEW HOME/CHALET** — 10 minutes from town off Turtle Pond Road. 2/1 with loft, .897 acres, 1,177 sq. ft. \$189,000. Call Ty at 828-577-9261.

**IN TOWN** — 3/2.5 log home. The cottages lakeside at Harris Lake. Less than 2 years old. \$329,000. Call Ty at 828-577-9261.

**PINE GROVE TOWNHOUSE CASHIERS.** Two bedrooms two and 1/2 bath. Walking distance to crossroads, restaurants and shopping. Large deck overlooking green lawn \$229,000. Call Manuel de Juan 828-743-1021. Owner broker. Visual tour at [www.pixelitvdeos.com/townhome](http://www.pixelitvdeos.com/townhome)

**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.

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

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

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

### ITEMS FOR SALE

**ANTIQUE ORNATE WALNUT** Victorian gold velvet sofa and blue chair. Call 369-0498 and leave message.

**DINING ROOM FURNITURE SET & MORE** — Hutch, small buffet/chest, drop leaf maple table and six chairs, \$500. Also antique radio — Faensworth Console, \$100. Call 526-4047 or 200-1153.

**BEAMS, FLOORING AND ENTIRE**

**STRUCTERS: HAND HEWN BEAMS.** Beautiful material, large faces, \$3.50-\$4.50 per board foot. Wormy white oak flooring (milled w/ a t&g), 6-12" widths, \$8.00 per ft. Original, reclaimed white and yellow pine flooring, random wide widths (6-16") \$6/board ft. Wide barn siding, \$3/ft. Also historic log cabins and barns ready to reassemble. 215-529-7637. Delivery available.

**JENNY LIND BABY CRIB** — white with mattress and matching changing table. Also includes baby mobile that lights up. Asking \$150. Call 526-9865.

**FREE STANDING WOOD-BURNING STOVE** — with blower. \$200. Call 828-349-3534.

**FRIGIDAIRE UPRIGHT FREEZER.** Excellent condition. \$100. (828) 526-9107.

**DINING ROOM TABLE & 8 CHAIRS** — Great for Mountain Home. Nearly New. Good Condition. \$2,000. Call Linda at 526-1517.

**KITCHENAID GAS RANGE.** Like new condition, \$250; King-size headboard, \$40; Queen-size headboard, \$35; new glass fireplace screen, (still in box,) polished brass finish, fits fireplace opening Height 24 3/4 " - 29 3/4 ". Width 30" to 37 1/2, " \$125. Call 828-371-2999

**ART-ALL ORIGINAL.** Art League of Highlands Fall Colors. October 20, 21. 10:00-5:00. Recreation Park, Route 64 West, Highlands, NC. Children's Art Room and "Hallway Hat Rack Show." Free admission. Door prizes. 828-526-2177.

**COMPLETE SET: XM RADIO,** Automobile unit, Home Boom Box, Remote Home Antenna by DELPHI over \$200 value for \$85.00. Call 526-2713

**LATE KENMORE FLOOR MODEL VACCUUM** 5.0 power with 2-motor systems. \$149. Call 526-4077.

**TWO DAHON PORTABLE FOLDING BICYCLES.** 6-speed. Like new. Kryptonite lock. \$275 for both. Call 743-5593.

**MEDICAL LIFT CHAIR** — Used one week. Paid \$615, asking \$500. 526-5558.

**ANTIQUE CHERRY DINING TABLE** from Estate Sale. Double drop-leaf. Rope carved legs. Seats 4-10 people Extends to 4x10 ft \$2,200. obo 828-787-1515

**LARGE BIRDCAGE** — 2 1/2 feet high by 1 foot 3 inches wide by 1 foot 2 inches deep. With feeders. \$40. Call 526-9245.

**DOG KENNEL.** 10' x 10' x 6', heavy gauge chainlink. Like New. \$175, was \$270. call 828.389.2722 Hayesville, NC

**DELUXE VENTED GAS** heater high btu, slightly used, \$100. 524-6038.

**CUSTOM DECK SET** — Painted aluminum Love seat & club chair with laminated waverly cushions. \$125. Call 526-1078.

**MAHOUGHANY CHINA CLOSET.** 6-ft plus, mirror back, 4 glass shelves. Must see. Call 787-2307.

**BERNHARDT CHERRY DESK,** mint



# • CLASSIFIEDS •

condition. Paid \$4,000; sell \$1500. Call 404-354-7463.

**CERAMIC KILN.** 230V, 20A, dual control up to 2300°F. Interior 20" high, 18" diameter. Almost new. \$500. 828/787-2177.

**ANTIQUE SLOT MACHINES** – 25c 1933 mills "war eagle" \$2,800; 10c mills 777 "special award" \$2,400. Mint condition. 828-862-3363.

**ARMOIRE & DRESSOR W/ 3 WAY MIRROR.** Light Maple color. Excellent condition. \$600 for both or will sell separately. 526-9107.

**VANITY TOP SINK** – 22"x37" with 4" back splash cream color, \$59. Call 526-4077.

**NEW SHOWER DOOR** – Still in box. 27" wide, gold color. Call 526-4077. \$79.

**FARM HOUSE STYLE PINE TOP COUNTRY TABLE** with white-washed legs, 6 chairs with white-washed legs. Best offer over \$700. Call 526-1597.

**CHINA CABINETS** desk, rope-bed, trunk framed artwork, quilts, and more. Call 828-526-3836.

**ANTIQUE BEAMS, FLOORING AND STRUCTURES:** Hand hewn beams in oak and yellow pine. Beautiful material, large faces, \$3.50-\$4 per board foot. Original, reclaimed white and yellow pine flooring, random wide widths (6-16") \$6/board ft. Also selling entire log and timber frame structures. 215-529-7637 ([www.icwoodworking.info](http://www.icwoodworking.info))

**BEAUTIFUL FLOORING:** Wormy white oak flooring, resawn, milled and ready to lay w/ t&g, 6-12" widths, \$8/sq. ft. 215-529-7637

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## VEHICLES FOR SALE

**MITSUBISHI 2006 RAIDER PICK-UP**

**TRUCK** – 4WD, Tool Box, 10,5000 miles. \$18,000. Call 526-0539.

**RECREATIONAL VEHICLE FOR SALE** – 2002 Discovery – 38P Cat 338 HP. Immaculate. Double Slide. Smoke/pet free. Original owner. All options Electric awnings. W/D. Six new batteries. Extended warranty. Brake Pro. 28,000 miles. \$105,000. Call 743-5593.

**1991 HONDA PRELUDE** – 190K miles. Runs Good. Looks Good. \$800. Call 200-9824.

**2006 SUZUKI DR 200SE MOTOR-CYCLE** – 29 miles, only, perfect condition, 1-cylinder, 4-stroke, 199cc. \$3,000. Call 828-342-6789 or home at 828-526-5507.

**HANDICAPPED VAN** – Dodge Grand Caravan, wheelchair accessible, automatic ramp, hand controls, 43,900 miles, \$16,000.00 526-9769.

**1966 MUSTANG** – 2-door coupe. \$12,000. Call 828-883-4214.

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

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

## SERVICES

**CAREGIVER** – Mature lady will do assisted living in your home. Quality care for all your needs. Also, house and pet care. Clear background and driving record. Call 706-282-0021 for more information.

**HOUSE SITTER AVAILABLE** – NC writer with excellent local references, seeking opportunity to stay in Highlands for the winter. Responsible, quiet, handy. Some caretaking -- no problem! 828-743-9530 or 917-584-7673.

**HOME CARETAKER** – Live in position wanted. Will repair and remodel your home while you're away this winter. Experienced in home repair and landscaping. References available. Call Jim Martineau at 828-743-2273 or cell: 413-584-1911.

**CUTTING EDGE TREE SERVICE** - "Let us go out on a Limb for You." We specialize in tree removal, trimming, Lot/View clearing, under brushing and stump grinding. Quality work and Fully insured. For Free Estimate call 524-1309 or 421-2905.

**SPIC AND SPAN CLEANERS** – looking for part-time cleaners to clean banks in Highlands and Cashiers. Call 828-691-6353.

**TREE SERVICE** – From view clearing to the most complicated tree removal, under brushing, stump removal/grinding/brush chipping/hauling and storm clean-up. For good quality, dependable services, fully insured, give us a call at 828-526-2251.

**HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID TREATMENT** – By J&J Lawn and Landscaping services. NC Licensed Applicator, Highlands, NC 828-526-2251.

**J&J LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICES** – complete lawn and landscaping service, spring cleanup, gutter cleaning, under-brushing, tree removal, lot clearing, storm cleanup, rockwork, retaining walls, flowerbeds, firewood. 828-526-2251.

**CLOCK REPAIR & RESTORATION** – Antique or modern. Call to discuss your repair needs. Visit my website at [www.oldclockrepari.com](http://www.oldclockrepari.com) or call Joseph McGahee at 706-754-9631 or email to [mogaheeclockshop@yahoo.com](mailto:mogaheeclockshop@yahoo.com) – 9/13

**PAINTING & PRESSURE CLEANING** – Decks and homes, senior discounts. Call the "Fussy Painter for Fussy People." ATM Painting. Insured. Alan Davies. Call 828-577-9262.

**SHIPPING SERVICES - STORK'S WRAP, PACK & SHIP** UPS Ground & Next Day Air services and large furniture shipping available. Packing services and/or supplies. Gift wrapping and fax services. 323 Hwy 107 N., Cashiers, NC (1/2 mile from crossroads) (828) 743-3222.

**HOUSE CLEANING & ERRAND RUNNING** – References available. Call 524-3261.

**NEED YOUR HOME CLEANED?** Call Charlotte at Letson Enterprise for a free estimate. 828-369-9127 or Bill at 828-421-0971.

**PERSONAL COMPANION/CARE-GIVER** Whatever your needs may be we can help. References available (828)421-

5940,(828) 399-1749.

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

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

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

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

**C&C CONTRACTING** – We Get It Done — Small or Large – Remodeling, decks, doors, windows or the whole house! Call Art Doughty at 828-508-1360 Workmen's Comp, General Liability, References

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

**MARK'S SEDAN DRIVING SERVICE** – All airports – Atlanta, Asheville, scenic tours, parks, special occasions, restaurant trips, auto delivery. Town Car. Call 828-524-0424 or cell (239)-292-3623. 10/25

# • THANK YOUS •

## WalkAmerica a community effort

As the 2007 Macon County March of Dimes WalkAmerica Chairperson, I would like to personally thank everyone who helped make this year's walk the best walk I can remember. First on the list is the Steering Committee: Roberta Bowles, Cathy Connor, Jennifer Garrett, Darlene Green, Richard Hall, Tami Norris, Diana Reese, and Nicki Tallent. Without this group's dedication and countless hours of work, the walk would not have been such a success. I would also like to acknowledge our 2007 Honorary Chairperson, Roger Plemens, President of Macon Bank. Roger was a great asset to the team this year – he was always willing to do whatever we ask him to do. Our 2007 ambassador family was Tyler, Melissa, Patrick, and Dominic Faetz. These two little boys were true inspirations to all who heard or read about them. After hearing their story, it became clear to all what the March of

Dimes is all about – "saving babies together."

I would also like to thank all those who provided sponsorship, through a variety of donations, to this year's walk. There are too many to name. There were numerous businesses and individuals who raised money to help our smallest members of the community. In my 9 years as chairperson, this is our most successful fundraising effort. To date, we have raised well over \$33,000 for the 2007 March of Dimes and we still have fundraising efforts happening.

A special thanks to the Franklin Police Department, Macon County EMS, and Macon County Sheriff's Department for ensuring the safety of all the walkers who participated. Thanks to Eddie Eagle and Owl B Healthy for helping us lead the walk. Also appreciation goes to Danny Antoine's Martial Arts Academy

• See THANK YOUS page 43



## ... ANOTHER VIEW continued from page 5

sense of history and politics. He was very different from my image of the Blackwater cowboys, whose knowledge is limited to use of overwhelming force.

Why has our government allowed Blackwater to operate in a reckless fashion? It is beyond believe that civilian and military leaders in the area are

unaware of their performance. Part of the reason is that our military is spread so thin that we have no choice, but to supplement our forces. Perhaps the government just doesn't question tactics, as long as convoys arrive safely at their destination.

Maybe, despite rhetoric to the

contrary, we don't put much value on an Iraqi life. Whatever the reason, or the complex collection of reasons, the sad fact is that misconduct by mercenaries, excuse me, private security contractors, undermines our efforts to pacify Iraq.

Egregious, but widely scattered, crimes by our military have done the same, but at least we have control over our forces. Private contractors are above Iraqi law. When a drunk Blackwater employee murdered the body guard of an Iraqi vice president at a Christmas Eve party, the employee was spirited out of the country, apparently fined and fired by Blackwater, but prosecuted neither by Iraq nor the U.S.

It was not until Iraq demanded the ousting of Blackwater that the misconduct of its employees attracted widespread attention. This is despite the fact that one-seventh of Blackwater employees in Iraq have been removed for various offenses ranging from drug and alcohol abuse, to excessive use of force, to weapons violations, to lewd behavior, whatever that means. Whatever it means, it is probably inadvisable in a Muslim country where Americans are viewed with suspicion. One is forced to wonder who Blackwater recruits and how it trains and supervises its agents.

Nobody wants a return to the draft, least of all me, the father of an 11-year-old son. Unfortunately, our military is stretched to the point that we must either consider compulsory service or learn not to bite off more than we can chew. Private armies are a bad idea, whether employed by South American drug lords or by the United States government. They have neither the training, the leadership, the discipline, nor the dedication of our military. They report to managers and owners who are motivated, not by the national interest, but by the bottom line. Speaking of the bottom line, American taxpayers have paid Blackwater \$823 million for its contribution to the effort in Iraq.

## The best way to contact police

The Highlands Police Department would like to make citizens of Highlands aware of the following procedures for non-emergency calls of service.

Officers are on patrol all day everyday, however the office is not staffed at all times. Persons needing to make a report or speak with an officer should call one of the following local numbers: (828) 369-9116 or (828) 369-3393 for the Dispatch center.

To conduct any other police business, such as obtaining copies of reports or speak with administration you may do so at the Police Department located at 310 Oak St. or call (828) 526-9431 Monday thru Friday, 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

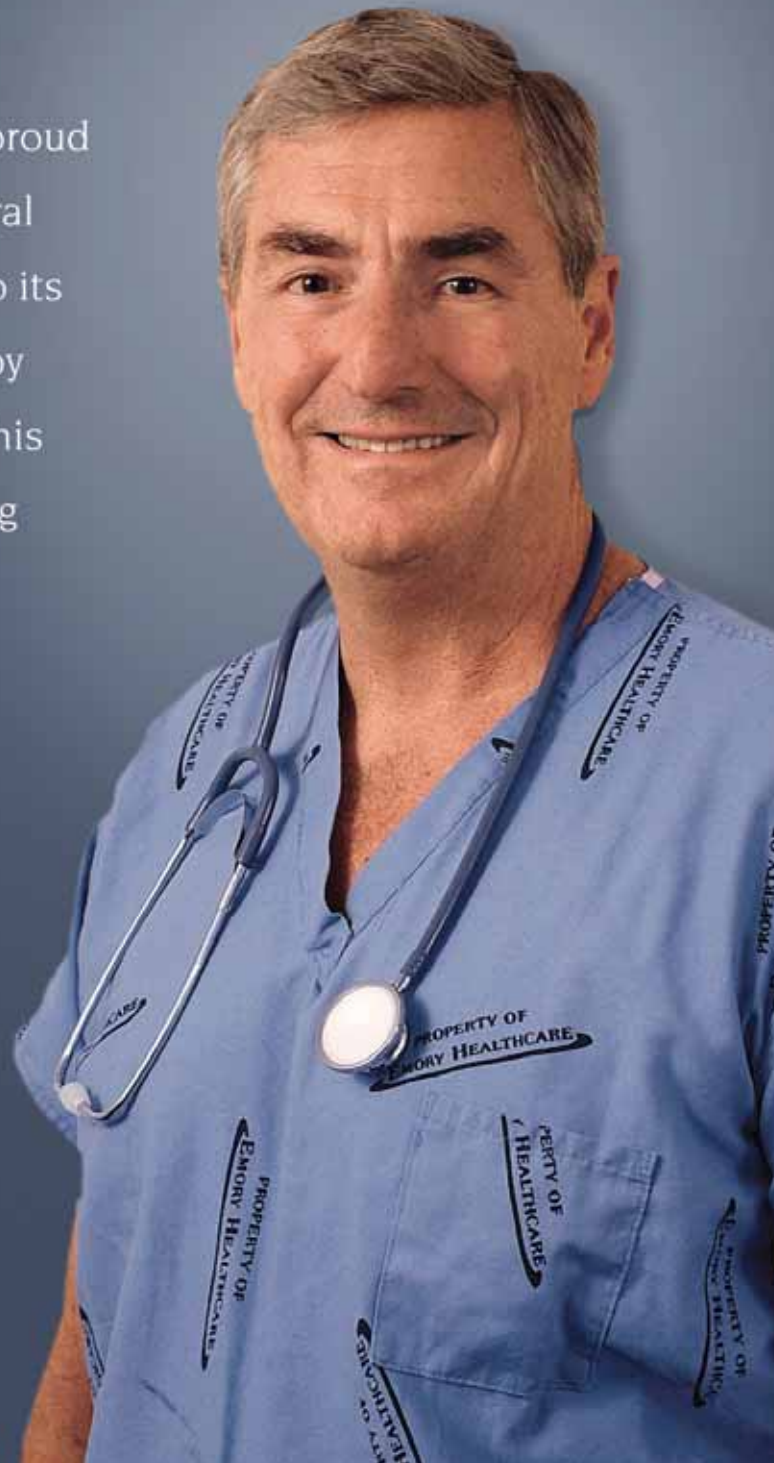
# General Surgery...

## Great care, close to home

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is proud to welcome former Atlanta general surgeon Gus Dozier, MD, FACS to its Medical Staff. Highly respected by his peers, Dr. Dozier now brings his 33 years of experience performing surgery to our operating room, **beginning November 5.**



To learn more about Dr. Dozier,  
visit our website at  
[www.highlandscashiershospital.org](http://www.highlandscashiershospital.org)





## • POLICE & FIRE •

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Oct.10-17. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

### Oct. 10

- At 12:45 p.m., officers responded to an accident between two vehicles in Highlands Plaza..
- At 1:40 a.m., officers responded to a domestic dispute at a residence on S. 2nd Street.
- At 4:10 p.m., officers responded to a simple assault between two men.

### Oct. 11

- At 11:45 a.m., a motorist was cited for reckless driving at Wyanoak and Chowan.

### Oct. 12

- At 9:55 p.m., a motorist at Cullasaja Drive was cited for speeding 44 mph in a 25 zone..
- At 10:30 p.m., a motorist on N. 4th Street was cited for driving without a license.
- At 6:40 p.m., a woman was accused of stealing a bundle of firewood but the claim was false.

- A little past midnight, a motorist at Main and N. 4th Street was cited for speeding 37 mph in a 30 zone.

### Oct. 15

- At 12:30 p.m., officers responded to an accident on U.S. 64 east and Laurel Street.
- During the week officers issued 7 warning tickets.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Oct. 10-17

### Oct. 10

- The dept. responded to a call of an accident on U.S. 64 west but it was in the Franklin jurisdiction and was cancelled.
- The dept. responded to an accident on U.S. 64 near Bust Your Butt Falls but it was cancelled.

### Oct. 13

- The dept. responded to numerous alarm calls at Shiraz Rug Gallery. The alarm system malfunctioned.
- The dept. responded to a vehicle fire on U.S. 64 west.
- The dept. responded to a carbon monoxide

alarm at a residence on Brushy Face Road but it was unfounded.

### Oct. 14

- The dept. responded to a mulch fire in The Meadows. It is still smoldering from last week.
- The dept. responded to an alarm at Shiraz Rug Gallery. It was false.

### Oct. 15

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

### Oct. 16

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at The Hampton Inn. The victim was transported to the hospital.
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Spoiled Rotten in Town Square. The victim was transported to the hospital.

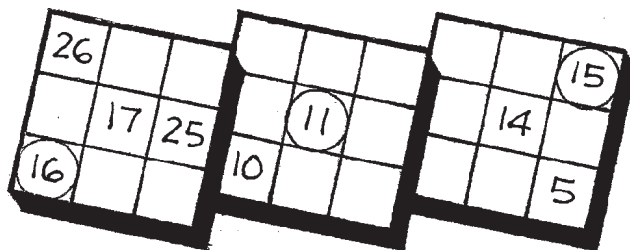
### NOTE:

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. requests that all citizens display their 9-1-1 numbers at their residences. To know where to put them, call 526-3645.

## • FUN & GAMES •

### PseudoCube®

#DZAC - Level of Difficulty - Easy



#### THE SETUP:

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

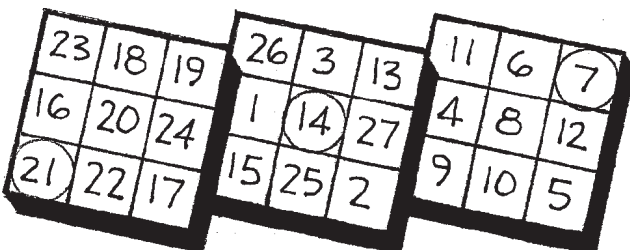
#### THE CHALLENGE:

Start with the three center numbers for each layer and the other numbers given. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other 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](mailto:pseudocube8@aol.com)

Solution to #CN4F in Oct. 11 issue



### N-Cryptoku®

**Object:** Assign 9 **different** letters to each cell of 9 columns and 9 rows. In addition, nine 3 x 3 cells in the layout have the same nine **different** letters (this is similar to Sudoku but uses nine letters instead of nine numbers). A 'mystery word or phrase' using all nine different letters is designated by circled squares (other short words appear when solving, for which a list of meanings is provided). Every puzzle has a different 'mystery word or phrase' (no spaces).

**How to Solve:** Determine the nine different letters among those given. Try to solve the mystery word using the clue given and write it in. Other small words will appear in the puzzle. As in conventional crossword puzzles, a list of meanings for these ACROSS/ DOWN words is given and number positions shown. Doing them will speed up your solution to the puzzle. Using your powers of induction, inference and insight, place missing letters in all blank squares according to the rules noted above. Focus attention where the least number of letters are needed to complete a line, column or 3 x 3 cell.

#### MYSTERY WORD:

Make uniquely (9 letters) across.

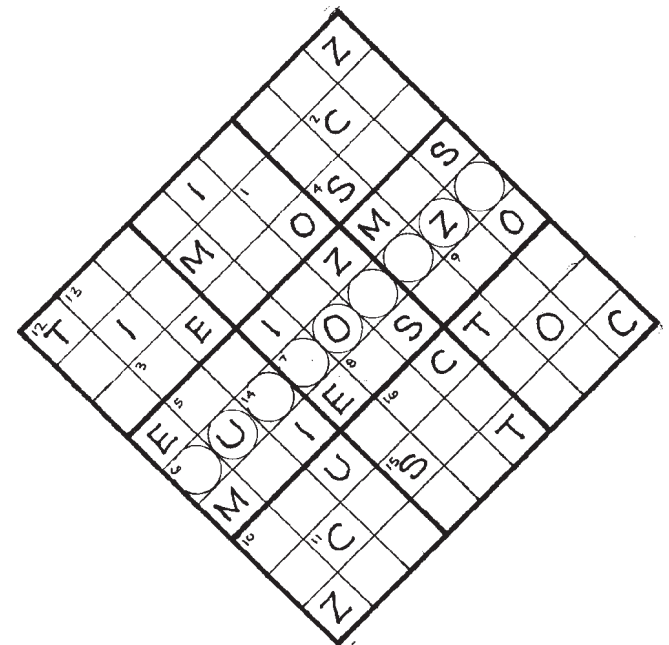
#### ACROSS

1. Seventh music note (2); 9. Preposition (2)
2. Chemical symbol for copper (2); 10. French coin (3)
3. Personal pronoun (2); 11. Connecticut (Abbr.) (2)

#### DOWN

4. Take seated position (3); 12. Preposition (2)
5. Preposition (2); 13. Yes! (Sp.) (2)
6. Habit (5); 14. Yes! (Sp.) (2)
7. Thomas (3); 15. Conjunction (2)
8. Personal pronoun(2)

Feedback encouraged: [donvcook@aol.com](mailto:donvcook@aol.com)



... THANK YOUS from page 41

demo team and Left of Center for providing entertainment to the walkers.\

In conclusion, Macon County is a very generous community that is always willing to support every citizen of the county, sometimes even the youngest or unborn members, the babies. Thank you to all who made the 2007 Macon County March of Dimes WalkAmerica event a huge success.

Jennifer Hollifield

2007 Macon County WalkAmerica Chairperson



# Find It All On This Map

HighlandsInfo.com - #1 Directory For 5 Years

Upscale Lodging, Fine Dining, Unique Shops & Best Realtors

## Waterfalls & Day Trips

Just Google Highlands To  
**HighlandsInfo.com**

# Highlands Map

HighlandsInfo.com

Please support our advertisers. They make this newspaper possible.

## THE RAINDROP WALTZ

Performing Arts Center

## ART SHOW @ REC. PARK

## SCUDDERS AUCTIONS 8 PM

## COMEDY FESTIVAL

Instant Theatre

## DINING

- 1 Cyprus
- 2 Golden China
- 3 Lakeside
- 4 Madison's
- 5 Main St. Inn
- 6 On Verandah
- 7 Paoletti
- 8 Pescado's
- 9 Rib Shack
- 10 Skyline Lodge
- 11 Wolfgang's

## Shopping

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

## Real Estate

- 1 Buyer's
- 2 Century 21
- 3 Chambers
- 4 Country Club
- 5 John Schiffl
- 6 Meadows Mtn.
- 7 Acorns
- 8 HillTop
- 9 Rib Shack
- 10 Jackson Madeleine & Basketcase
- 11 The Lodge

## Galleries

- 1 Bryant Art Glass
- 2 Tino Gallery
- 3 Twigs
- 4 Summit One

## Don't Miss ACORNS Trunk Show

## Highlands' Newspaper Advertising That Works Hardcopy & Online

## Madison's Wine Spectator

## Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals

## Wayah Insurance

## Brick Oven

## Phillips 66

## Fibber Magee's

## Mt Findings

## Whole Health Market

## Civic Center Rec. Park

## Pool & Tennis

## Historic Village

## Meadows Mtn. Realty

## Rest Rooms

## Town Hall

## PlayHouse

## Police

## A.B.C.

## Bear Mt Outfitter

## Oak St. Cafe

## Scudders

## Kilwins

## Buck's

## Shiraz Rugs

## Methodist

## Chintz Antiques

## Mirror Lake Antiques

## Images/Spa

## Warth

## Summit One Art Gallery

## Reeves Ace

## Hardware

## Drug Store

## Main St. Inn

## Instant Theatre

## SportsPage

## Real-Time Weather & WebCam

## Wolfgang's Wine Spectator

## Highlands Lodging

## Old Edwards Inn

## Main Street Inn

## Skyline Lodge

## The Lodge

## Gates Nursery

## CITGO

## Rosewood

## Exxon

## Don Leon

## #1 NAILS

## Carolina Eyes

## Country Club Prop

## Fressers Restaurant

## Bryson's Foods

## Gourmet Wines

## Cheeses

## Meats

## Produce

## Post Office

## Manley's Auto Service

## J&J Lawn & Landscaping

## Summer House & Tin Roof

## 1 Mile Hwy. 106

## 2 Miles Hwy. 106

## The Farm & Highlands C.C.

## 1 Mile Hwy. 106

## O.T.V. - Live Music

## Cyprus - Live Music

## Rib Shack Sports Bar

## Skyline Piano Bar

## Main St Inn Wine Bar

## The Wine Garden

## Fressers - Live Music

## "We Cut The Best Steaks In Town"

## Dusty's Market

## Cyprus Taylor Barns

## Best Bunch

## Dillard Village

## 1