

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 5, Number 43

PDF Version – www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Oct. 25, 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 Fri. & Sat. at 6 p.m.

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

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

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

• 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.

Thursday & Friday, Oct. 25-26

• ITC's Comedy Festival with 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

• HCP's production "The Raindrop Waltz" at PAC. 7:30 p.m. or 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Call 526-8084 for tickets.

Friday, Oct. 26

• At Cyrano's author Rosetta Mowery signing "Tragedy in Tin Can Holler" at 3-5 p.m. and Elizabeth Musser signing "The Dwelling Place" from 5-7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 27

• Highlands School Fun Run at 10 a.m.
• Highlands School Fall Festival 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the school.

• Pancake Breakfast from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Scaly School House, on Buck Knob Rd. \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for children.

• A Cyrano's Bookshop, 1-3 p.m., Thomas Rain Crowe signing 3 books; from 3-5 p.m., Tony Dungy signing "A Quiet Strength;" and from 5-7 p.m., Karen Weihs signing "Out of My Mind."

Sunday, Oct. 28

• WCU Music Dept. Faculty performance at the First Presbyterian Church at 4 p.m. It's free.

Monday & Tuesday, Oct. 29-30

• Bloodmobile at First Citizens Bank on Mon., from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; at the hospital on Tues. from 9 until 11 a.m.; at the Cashiers library from 1-5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 31

• At ITC Hurricane Creek Halloween Dance. Call 828-342-9197 for tickets.

• Trick or treat at the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center at 3-5 p.m.

• Trick-or-Treat downtown Highlands from 6-8 p.m.

Greenway Trail ordinances proposed

Most of Monday night's Planning Board meeting was devoted to the Greenway Trail and how it would affect homeowners and commercial entities.

To make the Greenway Trail viable, the path it takes must be backed up by the town's zoning

ordinance particularly as it pertains to trail width, buffers, lot size exceptions and setback exceptions.

But so far the Planning Board has only seen a map depicting the trail as it basically currently exists from Sunset Rock around the Nature Center on to Mirror Lake and

the head of the Kelsey Trail – a trail that is not only on town property but mostly on streets.

What members want to see is where it will cross residential and commercial property because that's what's "new" and that's

• See GREENWAY page 32

County buys land next to Zachary P.

Slowly but surely the county's park on Buck Creek is growing.

At the Monday night Macon County Commission meeting, the board agreed to purchase 1.78 acres from Mattie Crawford for its appraised value of \$167,040.

"I talked to her and she agreed to sell it to us for that amount," Commissioner Bob Simpson, liaison to the county's recreation commission.

Based on the prices thrown around in the past – in the vicinity of \$400,000 – Commissioner Jim Davis said the county "needs to jump on this."


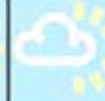
Attorney Lesley Moxley said the "offer to purchase contract" can be drawn up immediately but the deal is subject to a valid survey because survey issues have come up in the past.

She said cash could be paid at closing with a satisfactory survey.

Commission Chair Charlie Leatherman suggested earnest money be paid to "help galvanize the contract."

• See ZACHARY page 20

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
55-44°F	60-40°F	59-39°F

Fall foliage frames the Cullasaja River

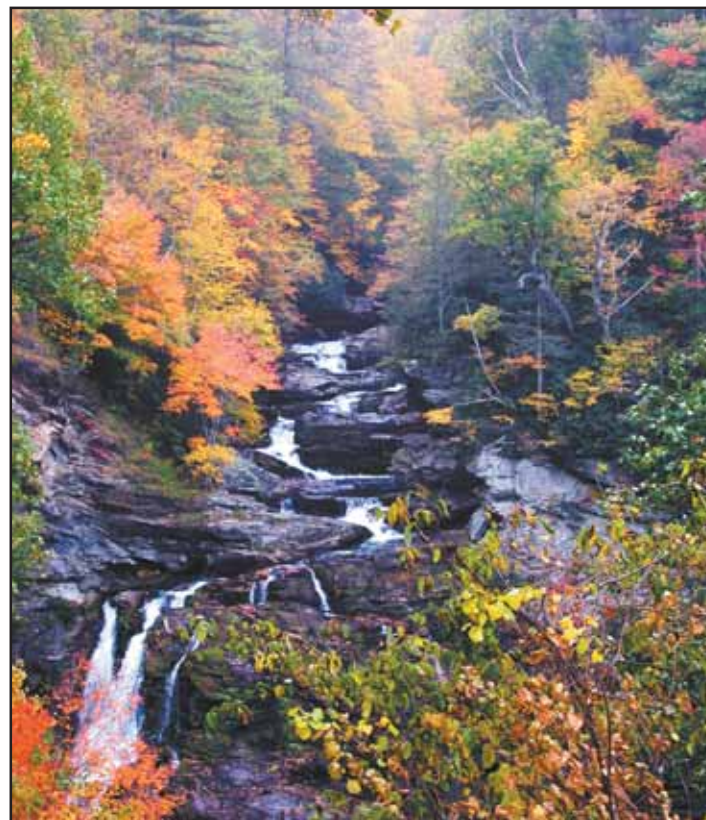


Photo by Jim Lewicki

Town asks county for help

Though the Town Board thinks it's likely Highlands will pay to build a transfer station at the landfill, they're not beyond asking for financial help from the county.

At the Oct. 17 Town Board meeting, commissioners voted 4 to 1 to ask the county to forego tipping fees for about four years to help offset the cost of building a municipal solid waste (MSW)

transfer station. Town Administrator Richard Betz sent the county the letter shortly thereafter.

"In a way, the county would be financing it for us," said Commissioner Hank Ross.

State regulations have changed the way the county can dispose of its waste – both garbage and construction and debris (C&D).

• See HELP page 21

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BOE takes steps to fix 'mistake'

By Sally Hanson
Reporter

Monday's meeting of the Macon County Board of Education included information about the bond referendum that is on the ballot for the Nov. 6 elections, as well as clarification regarding the board's advertisements for the bond. There were also updated plans on display of the proposed 5-6 grade middle school, the K-4 North Macon School and the renovations to the existing East Franklin School.

Attorney John Henning, Jr. read a prepared statement regarding the recent media coverage purporting that the Board of Education had illegally advertised for the School Bonds. Superintendent Dan Brigman emphasized that the money that had been allocated in August to educate the public about the bonds had been preserved, and that the entire balance of \$5,000 remained in the account. "On Nov. 7, any balance will revert back to the undesignated fund balance," Brigman said.

Chairman Donnie Edwards said "The last time that bonds were issued in this county for school improvement was more than 20 years ago." He said that the bonds are needed for new school construction as well as renovation at elementary, middle and high schools for immediate infrastructure improvement and future capital school needs.

• See SCHOOL BOARD page 7

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Arguing is a lost art

Dear Editor,

I just finished Arthur Hancock's letter to the editor. I have read neither Mrs. Brugger's article nor the 'attack' on her by a couple of conservatives. Due to that fact, I am looking at his letter on its own merits. One thing jumps right out at me....he's using similar tactics as those he denounces.

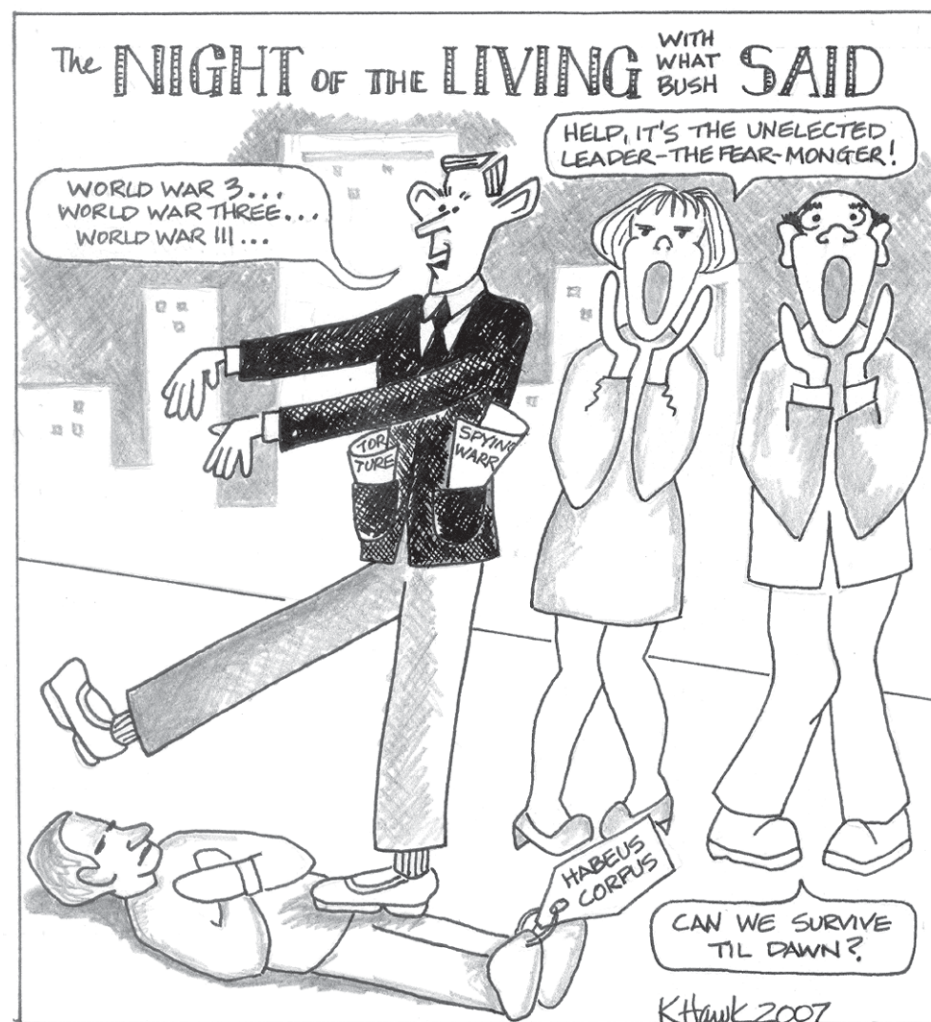
Point in case, Mr. Hancock quickly jumps into name calling ("sanctimonious hypocrites") and far-reaching generalizations ("....a favorite ruse of the right..."). The fact is that this behavior is not limited to one party or the other, but rather is human nature. When things are not going our way, be it in a political discussion or in life, our first instinct is to protect our own and repel the attacker. It becomes emotional.

Now here's the thing. We're not accomplishing anything by doing so. Both conservative and liberal thinkers will most likely agree that the world is spinning out of control at an alarming rate. Why? I think in large part because we have lost the ability to disagree with another's views without losing respect for that person. Rather than hearing the other person out and placing our thoughts on hold; we think that it is our duty to change how the other person feels. When they don't immediately kowtow to our views, what do we do? We lash out, using whatever means and degrading argument we can come up with at the time. Such a sad state of affairs, eh?

I have a friend here in town who is the polar opposite of me, she is a very liberal thinker, I'm more conservative in nature. (Hi, sweetie, I know you are reading this!) I disagree with a lot of what she says, but I respect her as a person and honor her right of holding her own opinions. And though I constantly dismay her with my views, she still treats me to a hug and a smile whenever we meet. I challenge you all to follow her example. You are much more likely to bring someone over to your way of thinking by being nice. You start calling me names and I'm not gonna listen.

And what makes this situation more absurd is that the vast majority of us have NO first hand knowledge of what we are arguing for/against! Mr. Hancock fell into this trap as well. We get our facts, and I use the term loosely, from the television media....the internet.... bloggers....etc. You have to realize that the media is made up of people. Humans - prone to

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



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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• LETTERS •

making mistakes or allowing their own personal viewpoints to color their coverage. I was a journalist at one point in my life, and I came away with the realization that the media gets it wrong more often than not.

Now I know that last statement is a strong one, and you may disagree. Come talk to me about it. I'll listen and argue my point without calling you names!

Ginger Moseley
Scaly Mountain

The next one Is In Walhalla

Dear Editor,

It is still tourist season in Highlands. However, the pedestrians should not be 'fair game.' There are crosswalks for pedestrians at the traffic lights. Crosswalks are also by Town Hall and at Third and Main streets. As you go south on Fourth Street from Main, the next crosswalk is in Walhalla.

All of these are becoming more difficult to see as the white paint is worn away. Since there are no signs to alert drivers to the crosswalks and that the pedestrians have the right-of-way, it may actually be safer to 'jay-walk.' This way a pedestrian does not assume that the drivers will slow or stop to let them cross the street.

I suggest that several steps be taken. First, repaint the crosswalks and put wide stripes between the lines to make each crosswalk much more visible. Then erect signs on either side to alert drivers that a crosswalk is ahead and that pedestrians have the right-of-way. Also, since we have parking in the middle of Main Street, signs should be erected to alert drivers to the fact that people will be walking from between the parked cars. Another crosswalk should be put on south Fourth Street - possibly at Church and Fourth. Some people may actually use it.

At the stop lights, the pedestrians, for the most part, walk between the lines, but a lot of them do not push the pedestrian walk buttons or wait for the walk signal. Many do not look up to what color the traffic light is. Even people with small children take the risk of walking against a red light. It seems that they ignore or do not see the waist level signs that say they are to push the pedestrian button. I suggest that new signs be placed at eye level. These should tell the pedestrian to do two things - push the button and wait until the walk signal is illuminated!

• See LETTERS page 18

• MILESTONES •

Billingsley graduates from Basic Training

Kay Billingsley left this spring for a life-changing adventure. She joined the Navy and has just graduated from Basic Training in Chicago. She is currently stationed in Texas where she is receiving Military Police training. Her family is thrilled with her success. She'll be back for a holiday visit at Christmas.



• OBITUARY •

Simone Sorge

Simone Sorge, beloved wife and devoted friend, died Thursday, October 18, 2007. Simone led a life of selfless service to others and blessed many with her love and compassion. She spent many years as a faithful volunteer of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, the Hudson Library and was active in the early years of the Highlands Community Playhouse. She is survived by her loving husband, George Sorge and family, nieces and nephews and many close friends who loved her dearly. She expressed the true Christly spirit and will be dearly missed. George and his family will receive friends on Saturday, October 27 from 10 a.m.-noon, in their home at Chestnut Hill, 50 Joe Pye Trail, Highlands, North Carolina.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Roy Todd Goodwin

Roy Todd Goodwin, 44, of Cashiers, N.C., died Sunday, October 21, 2007 at his fiancée's residence. He was born in Chicago, IL, the son of Margo Jean Ward of Cashiers and the late Roy Eugene Goodwin. He owned and operated Cashiers Garage Doors and was an avid fisherman and hunter.

In addition to his mother he is survived by his step-father, Charles Ward, his fiancée, Bobbie Holden; two sons, Cody Goodwin of Cashiers, N.C. and Clinton Goodwin of Atlanta, GA; his fiancée's children, Casandra, David and Patrick of the home; two sisters, Dawn Bryson of Transylvania, N.C. and Charlene Ward of Asheville, N.C. He was preceded in death by his brother, Shawn Kevin Goodwin.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, October 27 at 2 p.m. at Heady Mountain Baptist Church with Rev. Berlis Powell officiating. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, Macon County Unit, P.O. Box 1648, Franklin, NC 28744. Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Gordon E. Vines

Gordon E. Vines, 68, of Highlands, died Monday, October 22, 2007 at his residence. He was born in Deerfield, IL, in 1939. He was the son of the late Gordon J. Vines and Helen Amundson Vines.

He was a member of Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church. He served his country in the U.S. Air Force and then as a firefighter and EMT for more than 25 years. He was a loving husband and the most incredible father. He was a friend to all and always enjoyed the simple things. He was involved in many charitable organizations both in Highlands and Cashiers. He will be greatly missed and forever remembered with a smile.

He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Marianne Witty Vines; his children, Scott Vines and his wife Tiffany, Pat Vines and his wife Jill, Suzi Mauk and her husband, Steve and Kati Vines; his grandchildren, Connor Vines, Emily and Abby Vines and Sean and Samantha Mauk.

In lieu of lowers, donations may be made to Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance or the Cashiers Free Dental Clinic. A memorial service was held on Thursday, October 25, 2007 at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church, with Father Tien officiating. Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

I NEED YOUR HELP!

Even if you are not a homeowner located in the town limits, your voice can still be heard!

If you know somebody who can vote, but doesn't, please give them a call. Let them know your position on the election. That may prompt them to vote this year. In the last election over half of the voters that could vote, did not.

This is **YOUR** community, and November 6 is **YOUR** chance to have a voice in its future!

VOTE for Larry Rogers

Town Board Commissioner!

(Paid for by Larry Rogers)



Mela Wilson
Petunia Pickle Bottom
CAKE by Petunia
Fawn by Petunia
Pears and Bears
Tea
Vineyard Vines

Tea Pee for Me
Little Raggio
Chabré
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Lilly Ashley
Perry Ellis
Widgeon

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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 3rd BR and 3rd 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.



Walk to town from this newly constructed home. Lots of space with a large great room, granite kitchen with warm cabinetry, and a dining room/ keeping room. Master suite on the main level with upscale bath, 2nd bedroom upstairs with a large loft area. The back deck has a stone fireplace and great privacy. Plus a 2 car garage \$495,000



Nestled among 2 million dollar home is this traditional mountain cottage. What an opportunity to turn a smaller home into a bundle of cash. 3 BR/ 3 BA & 2 lofts. Newer roof, freshly painted exterior and interior. The greatroom has a beautiful stone fireplace and the home has the feeling of being in a great lodge. This place could become a gem. Plus a Whiteside Mountain view too. \$775,000

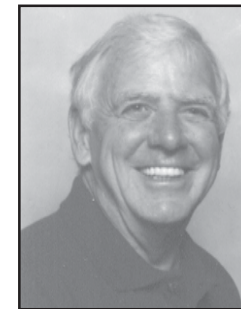


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• LOOKING AT LIFE •

I have good news...and bad news

Note: Fred Wooldridge spent 28 years with the Miami Beach Police Department and his story, although dramatized, is true. Until recently, he had not even told his wife or children of these events.



Fred Wooldridge

•
**Feedback
is encouraged!
email:
askfredanything@aol.com**

Running a personal errand, I had just left the drugstore when the call came out. "Unit 114 Charlie and all available zone units, shots fired, man down on the street in front of 1340 Euclid. Units responding acknowledge."

The radio came alive with responding units, all cutting each other out. "114 on it. 112 rolling. 110 ditto." I was only 8 blocks away so I grabbed the mic. "910, I'm responding." I pulled the small blue light from the floor of my unmarked car and set it on the roof.

Even though I reached the crime scene in less than a minute, two marked squad cars had already arrived and blocked off Euclid Ave. "Evening Lieutenant Wooldridge...it's over there. The guy's a goner." Lying on the sidewalk on his stomach was a young Latin male. I shined my flashlight into his face and recognized the glassy stare I had seen so many times. I reached for my radio. "This is 910; the victim is DOA. Slow everything down and send the M.E."

In a matter of minutes, the street filled with detectives, crimes scene personnel and uniformed police officers. Although everything appeared chaotic, everyone went about their job in an orderly fashion.

"What are you doing here, Lieutenant? I thought you were in Highlands." I smiled at Detective Morgan and showed him my watch. "I'm outta here in less than four hours." "You're a lucky man. I would have left already. You know this guy?" I leaned down for another look. "Hard to tell until I see his whole face."

I carefully lifted the back of his Guayabera shirt, revealing a two-shot Derringer stuck in a cloth holster inside his pants. Detective Morgan smiled, "As I live and breath, I have found my killer. Remember the shooting last week in Lumus Park? The M.E. says the guy was probably wasted with a Derringer. Move your feet, Lieutenant, the guys bleeding on you." The victim's thick plasma had flowed across the sidewalk to the tip of my shoes. I quickly moved but it was too

late.

It would be a good night for the police. In less than an hour, two eye witnesses to the shooting were located, a drug motive was established and the shooter was identified, found and arrested with the murder weapon on him. It doesn't get any better than that.

Once I reached police headquarters, I took off my shoes and washed off the blood. Then, in sock feet, I walked to my office

and called the Chief at home. "Good evening sir. Hate to bother you but, once again, I have good news and bad news." It was a ritual the chief and I had performed many times. "The bad news is our homicide stats just went up by one. The good news is we have a drug dealer in the morgue and another in jail. This homicide has made our city a better place."

A short time later I was headed for home, a happy cop. Every light in the house was on and our station wagon sat in the driveway with all four doors open. Our red miniature Dachshund, Duchess, sat in the front seat and would not budge from her spot to greet me in fear she would be left behind. The li'l missus was surprised to see me home early. "Must have been a boring night. Where are your shoes?" I didn't respond.

Driving all night from Miami to Highlands was something we had grown accustomed to. I had a full six weeks off to forget about my work. At dawn, we would arrive at our little cabin still under construction and sleep for several hours before hitting Potts' market for groceries. Later, I would sit on the bored husband's bench and drink in the mountain air, the people and slow pace of this tiny mountain village I love so much.

That afternoon I called West Lumber to see if the building supplies I had ordered were in. "Ah, Mr. Wooldridge, I have good news and bad news. The good news is your order is in but the bad news is we can't deliver until Friday." I smiled into the phone, "That's not bad news, it just seems like it."

Going home? Read Fred's column all year at:

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

• ANOTHER VIEW •

The wonder of 'Bear'

The first flakes fell gently from the sky. After a warm dry fall, we eagerly awaited the first major snow of the season. Autumn had been an endless succession of cloudless days. The snow fell faster and Peter and I suddenly remembered our winter supply of wood, cut and piled in a high valley 15 miles from Ketchum, Idaho, our home for the winter.

The road to the valley closed after the first big dump. If the snow continued, and if we didn't retrieve our wood quickly, it would be beyond reach for the rest of the winter. We slammed our beers and rounded up two neighbors with pick-up trucks. My small Datsun and their large Fords formed a convoy. As we reached the valley of standing dead trees, the sky darkened further, as dusk added to the ever heavier snow fall. As I pulled off

the road toward our first pyramid of winter fuel, I saw a large black object sitting silently and motionless against the pile, like a sentry or a specter. My initial thought was that it might a black bear, but what would a bear be doing resting beside our wood stack?

As we drew closer, I recognized it as an enormous black mongrel dog. My dog, Anna, jumped from the tiny cab and approached him. We soon realized that he had run afoul of a porcupine and had dozens of quills. We surmised that he had been roaming while his master cut wood, had wandered off,



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.
email:

hsalzarulo@aol.com

found the porcupine, and failed to return. Perhaps his owner had tired of waiting and had left him. There was little chance that his owner would be able to get up the road to rescue him, and even less that the animal weakened by dehydration and the infection caused by the quills would be able to get home alone.

I called him to my truck. He came lamely and struggled into the seat. We stacked wood in the trucks under the illumination of headlights, for night had fallen and the snow continued. When the trucks were loaded, I called my dog, Anna. As she jumped nimbly into the cab, the black

dog left the seat and took up a new position on the floor. I wondered if he had given up his seat for the lady, but quickly dismissed the notion.

We returned to town and dumped the first load. I asked the guys if I could stay with the dog, while they made a second trip up to the wood stash. A neighbor's wife and I put him on our kitchen table, and with a pair of pliers, began the operation. We extracted quill after quill. We found them in his paws, his muzzle, his nose, his chest, even inside his mouth. Many were infected and festering. I wondered if he had stationed himself at our wood pile, hoping for human aid. Again I rejected the thought as anthropomorphism.

Through it all, this wonderful beast remained quiet. Once or twice he whimpered, as we pulled quills from tender places. Never did he growl.

•See ANOTHER VIEW page 13



Happy Halloween!

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the
rocks

Twigs

Twigs
the Season

Health Dept. director praises staff and prepares for future

By Sally Hanson
Reporter

Decisions made at the Board of Public Health's October meeting will streamline the department and keep it on task.

Director Jim Bruckner said that the board needs to be focused on decision-making and not on the day-to-day issues of the Health Department. The motion to hold meetings every other month instead of every month passed unanimously.

Assistant Director Anne Hyder then informed the board that the flu vaccine clinics had been scheduled for this year. "The exciting part is that we finally got the vaccine in at the appropriate time, so we can put notices out and plan for the whole season," she said. Hyder said that it had been five years since the vaccines had arrived on time.

Clinics in Highlands are scheduled

at the Highlands Civic Center, and Saturday, November 3, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, also at the Highlands Civic Center. No appointments are needed, and the vaccines cost \$25.

Hyder also noted that the flu clinics aren't intended to serve the high-risk population. "Those individuals need to come through the Health Department," she said, because there are different types of vaccines earmarked for young children and older adults.

Bruckner then informed the board that he was in the process of developing a monthly performance review that will be sent out to board members to inform them of what's going on in the Health Department. "It's a report card for the board to track trends and changes," he said. Bruckner hopes to have the first performance review out to members in January.

Dr. David Oliver updated the board

on the Adult Dental Clinic. "People are behind on delivering their promises, so we are a couple of days behind," he said. The clinic plans to be open on Thursday morning, and Bruckner said there are several hundred patients who have contacted the clinic to make appointments.

"Right now we plan to see emergent care patients," Oliver said. "We'll be doing less lab-based stuff, because we have an overwhelming need for bread and butter dentistry like extraction." Oliver said that the clinic plans to have an open house in a few weeks, but Bruckner added that right now they don't even have to advertise because there has been such a big response. "We've already had calls from other counties," Bruckner said, but he also said that Macon County residents will get priority.

Communicable Disease Coordina-

tor Stan Polanski updated the board on the recent HIV/STD Audit and Site Review that was conducted by the NC State Health Department. Overall, he said, the department was pleased with Macon County's performance. Polanski mentioned in particular that a packet put together by Health Education Supervisor Becky Barr was so well-received by the state health department that they took a copy of it back to Raleigh to recommend its use elsewhere.

"When a new physician comes to town they get a packet from us telling them what all the health department services are and what illnesses are required to be reported to the Health Department," Polanski said. The packet also contains informative cards and handouts that doctors can give out for patient education.

Bruckner praised the staff of the Health Department. "The volume of work that goes through here is phenomenal. The amount of work is no different than what I've seen in bigger counties, even though we see fewer patients," he said.

Next, Campbell brought up the subject of board-appointed committees. While it was noted that these committees are important, Bruckner added that board members shouldn't have to be involved in the day-to-day business of the Health Department. "We certainly don't want to deemphasize the importance of what we've done, but it would be more efficient for everyone," Campbell said.

It was proposed to eliminate all board-appointed committees and simply to form ad-hoc committees when the need arises. Tammy Dills made a motion to this effect, and it was seconded and passed unanimously.

Finally, the board moved on to the issue of board member terms. Chairman Campbell's term is over January 8, 2008, and he isn't eligible for another term, so the board needs to find another optometrist or ophthalmologist to fill his position on the board.

Dr. Roy Lenzo's term is also up on January 8, but he is eligible for another term. Campbell noted that there are currently eight eye-care professionals serving Macon County, but not all of them are residents of the county, which is a requirement for serving on the board.

The board acknowledged that the search for another chairman and an optometrist or ophthalmologist was on, and then moved into closed session.

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... SCHOOL BOARD continued from page 1

"The official position of the Macon County School Board is that it supports passage of this referendum to increase available capital funding for public school construction. The board confirms and reiterates its commitment to use all public funds designated for school capital needs in the most efficient manner possible based on the highest standards of academic excellence," Edwards said.

Board Member Roberta Swank had attended a conference in Asheville concerning the board and what it was allowed to do. "It was great to be at the law conference and to see what was permissible and what was not," Swank emphasized that the board was trying to rectify any damage that had been done. "We made a mistake, we admitted the mistake, and we have corrected the mistake," she said.

The board then moved on to regular business. Edwards discussed the Highlands School's planned trip to Washington, DC, in January of 2009, and said that it had to be approved this far in advance to ensure that rooms could be procured for the trip. He also mentioned that it was a tentative approval, and that if world events changed between now and then that the trip might not take place.

History teacher Chris Green is accompanying 32 Highlands School students to Washington, DC, January 18-21, 2009, to tour the Capitol, monuments and attend the inauguration.

The issue of what to do with the Old Cartoogechaye School surplus property was raised, and several members of the teaching community were present at the meeting. Franklin High School English Teacher Tyler Faetz spoke to the board about the possibility of retaining the property as a reduced-cost childcare center for the children of Macon County's teachers.

Faetz asked what use the board was considering for the property, and emphasized the need for reduced-cost childcare for teachers in Macon County. "We have lost some Macon County employees to other school districts partially due to a lack of benefits like these."

According to Faetz, both Haywood and Clay Counties provide this service as a benefit to public school teachers at a low cost. He suggested that the school district could be responsible for the custodial expenses at the old school, and independent operators who want to open the center could pick up the rest of the expenses. Faetz said that after reading an article in last Friday's Franklin Press about the childcare center, he would like to see if the board wants to give the idea further consideration before returning the property back to the county.

Brigman said that he could sympathize with the need for childcare, but that a commitment had been made to keep old Cartoogechaye open for one year only, and the monies allotted for one year of operation in the amount of \$35,000 would only cover the salary of a part-time custodian and basic energy costs. "We're in a difficult situ-

ation with the lack of funding to maintain the facility," Brigman said. If a big issue came up, such as a leaky roof needing replacement, the funds wouldn't be available to keep the building open.

However, Edwards said that when the building reverts back to the county next year that it could still become a reduced-cost daycare. He said that the school board can't fund a low-cost daycare for teachers, but that the idea could be taken to the county commissioners. "Your best bet is to let us give this to the county," Edwards said.

"If they want to set up a county-sponsored daycare, they have that option," Brigman said. Susie McCoy added that it was her understanding that the private company wanted to have a daycare center up and running by January. "If we let the building go it would give you time to do something," she said.

There was also a discussion about future plans for high school programs. Nancy Cantrell said that the staff at Union Alternative School was trying to help students who are at risk of not graduating to find a vocational skill they are interested in. "We have a lot of people that are interested in being involved in a partnership with us. We

hope to reach out to students that won't be going on to a four-year college or university but who still need training that goes beyond high school," Cantrell said. She mentioned that every student would be able to complete an apprenticeship and graduate not only with a high school diploma, but also with a certification to help secure a job right out of high school.

This was well-received by the board. Edwards said "This is something we need to do. We need to partner with the community: I think it will work." Susie McCoy said "I'm glad to see this. I wanted this when the alternative school started."

Edwards said isn't just for students in the Union community. "This will work at Highlands and Nantahala, too. There's no reason we can't farm out for apprenticeships in Highlands or Nantahala. I think it's a great idea." He said that if kids want to stay in Macon County after high school, construction and other vocational industries are a good place to start. "That's where the jobs are," Edwards said.

The November BOE meeting is Nov. 19 at Nantahala; the December meeting is Dec. 17 in Franklin.

• For more on the BOE referendum spending explanation see page 20.

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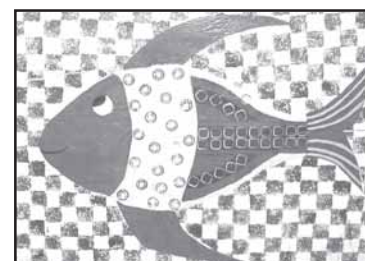
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What is 'good government?'

One of the biggest tasks facing any progressive political movement in this country is the rehabilitation of the image of government after 30 years of attack by conservatives.

Ronald Reagan's famous statement sums up what many conservatives think: "The most terrifying words in the English language are, 'I'm from the government and I'm here to help.'"

The obvious question that comes to my mind when I hear this quote is "Why do people who hate government want to work in it?" An answer I know I would get from someone on the right is the one Barry Goldwater gave in his book *The Conscience of a Conservative*, published in 1960: "I have little interest in streamlining government or making it more efficient, for I mean to reduce its size." I think there are other reasons, but I'll leave the discussion of that for another time.

What has been happening during the years of Republican control of government is the steady dismantling and evisceration of government capabilities, through lack of funding, lack of staffing, and filling positions with incompetents, so when a disaster such as Hurricane Katrina hits and the government fails in its response, the right-wing can point and say, "see, didn't we tell you government was worthless?"

Is there any such thing as good government?

Social Security is an obvious example of a government program that has brought about a positive result. The reduction of poverty among the elderly was very dramatic: up to a two-thirds reduction in some states. After his reelection in 2004, George Bush thought



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he had enough popular support to bring about a dream of conservatives since the 1930s: the end of Social Security. Social Security has long been called the Third Rail of politics, meaning it would electrocute you if you touched it, and every time Bush spoke about his plan to privatize this wildly popular government program the number of people who supported his efforts decreased. Here is a government program that has worked and the people know it.

Another great example is the GI bill (another legacy of President Franklin D. Roosevelt). Recently I read an article in the *New York Review of Books* that discussed the impact the GI Bill had on this country: "Less than 5% of Americans held college degrees in 1945. Fewer than two of every five U.S. soldiers had finished high school...The GI Bill covered living expenses for half the nation's college students by 1947, and helped finance nearly 90% of private houses constructed in the 1950s — 13 million of them...Almost eight million ex-soldiers received free job training or higher education under two GI Bill programs costing \$14.5 billion (back when tuition at the best private colleges was below a thousand dollars per year).

"Taxpayers eventually reaped at least sevenfold profit from the enhanced incomes, according to some studies, and consensus puts the GI Bill among the most ingenious public investments ever conceived. The bill was a principal catalyst for the new middle-class America — helping to spawn suburbs and to raise productivity so broadly that the wage gap between social classes reached its all-time low in 1950."

Not long after reading this article I edited an interview I had filmed with Dr. Bob Zahner a couple of years ago. He said that his mother had wanted him to be an architect, but because of the GI bill he was free to choose what he wanted to study in college. He chose

forestry, and all of us on the Highlands plateau are better for it.

A third example of the power of government surprised me when I learned of it. In the 20th century the average life span of an American citizen rose from 47 in 1900 to 77 in 2000. I had always assumed this astonishing rise was due to new medical technologies and drugs. In fact, most of this increase is due to public health measures instituted by governments.

Robert Fogel, a Nobel laureate in economics (meaningless though that may be), wrote in 2004: "Some recent findings suggest that most of the huge increase in life expectancy since 1900 is due to the large investment in public health programs between 1880 and WWII that cleaned up the water and milk supplies, developed modern waste disposal systems, reduced air pollution, and improved the nutritional status. Of course, these public health programs were prompted by advances in medical knowledge."

In 1900, 30 percent of deaths were among children five years of age and under. Many of these deaths were the result of contaminated food and water, lack of handwashing, and infections that now have been eliminated or greatly reduced by immunization. Government sponsored childhood immunization programs have led to a reduction or virtual elimination of diseases like polio, whooping cough, measles, tetanus and rubella.

Our country is gearing up for a huge fight over health care. The Republicans are going to try and scare us again like they did in 1994. During the 1990s the dirty word was "liberal," but I think the dirty word this time is going to be "socialist." If you think government can be a force for good you are a socialist. I have already heard this line: "We don't want socialized medicine."

I think a consequence of the savaging of government's reputation by conservatives is increasing apathy about political affairs among citizens of our nation. At the Highlands Town Board candidate forum last week, if you didn't count the members of Leadership Highlands who hosted the event, the spouses of the candidates, or the media, one person attended. One.

To be fair, the local newspapers' ongoing candidate question and answer forums may have affected attendance at the Leadership Highlands Forum. But still, the foundation of democracy is citizen participation. Without it we have oligarchy — government by the few.

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• HIS & HERS •

Questionable behavior by candidate

Criminal means either a person convicted of a crime or who has committed a crime, regardless of any conviction. Hillary Clinton has not been convicted of any crime. She never will be, regardless of what she does. It would be career-suicide for any prosecutor to bring charges against her.

That said, Hillary meets the second definition of criminal.

There is a video tape of Hillary Clinton, made 17 July, 2000, as she called the offices of Peter Paul while Stan Lee (creator of Spiderman) and others were there. The call was about the Hollywood Gala created by Hillary's White House Assistant, Kelly Craighead, for which Bill Clinton's associate, Jim Levin, solicited Paul's support. The Gala took place 12 August. At first glance, the video merely shows Hillary thanking those who raised money. But it is much more than that.

This video was seized by Federal Marshals in Spring, 2001 and held by the US Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York until 11 April, 2007, when it was finally released to Mr. Paul.

Here are two links on the Internet for the tape of that call:

<http://www.hillcap.org>
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qcbg72tK_ks

This tape shows three different FEC crimes. First: the Gala was reported as an "independent" event. If "coordinated" with the candidate, all contributions over \$2,000 were illegal. A performance by Cher, or any of dozens of other artists who appeared "without fee" at the Gala were each worth more than \$2,000.

Ms. Clinton cannot claim she was unaware of these arrangements, since on the tape she discusses her call to "close the deal with Cher" after Paul's talent coordinator made the initial arrangements.

The second crime concerns her alleged "lack of knowledge" of the false reporting of the expenses for this Gala, in the criminal trial in Los Angeles of David Rosen, Finance Director of her Senate Campaign, for false reporting. His attorneys, along with the prosecutor, told the trial judge that "Hillary Clinton had no knowledge of the finances for this Gala."



Michelle Mead & John Armor
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It is malpractice for any attorney to represent to any judge what a witness might say, without first talking with that witness. Hillary either lied to the lawyers so they would lie to the judge, or she told the truth to them, and they lied to the judge. Either way, the lies worked. The judge

responded that "Hillary Clinton is not in the loop in any direct way, and the jury will be so advised."

It was not until years after Rosen's trial was over, that this video tape was obtained from the US Attorney's office in New York. There is also the wrinkle that this case was tried before a judge appointed by Bill Clinton. Why the prosecutor did not ask the judge to recuse himself, is beyond me

The third crime concerns the Federal Election Commission. The Complaint that NY Senate 2000, her first campaign organization, had falsified the records concerning the Gala, was filed 16 July, 2001. Finally, on October 16, 2005, the FEC found that the Gala had falsely represented the financials by \$721,000.

This was a "settlement" with the Campaign, requiring it to file a new report about the missing money, and pay a fine of just \$35,000, a low fine for the largest falsehood in FEC history. Again, Clinton lawyers represented that Hillary "had no knowledge of the errors."

Under FEC law, the candidates are personally responsible for all documents and records filed with the FEC. It doesn't matter if they are filed by lawyers, treasurers, or anyone else. The phone call shows that Ms. Clinton was aware of details of the funding of the Gala. So, the lies presented to the FEC were her fault. One final detail about the FEC: The amended report which she filed, was itself dishonest about the source of the missing money.

There is now a 13-minute video which pulls all this information together: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=7007109937779036019&pr=goog-sl>.

The final version of this, "Hillary Uncensored," runs 60 minutes, and will be available both through the Internet

• See HIS & HERS page 16

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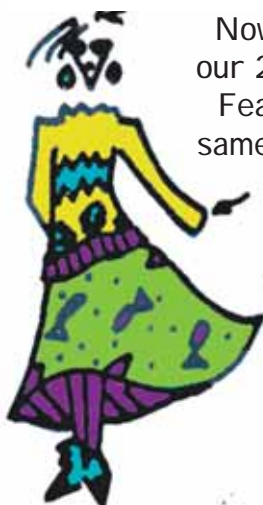
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• COACH'S CORNER •

Thoughts spurred by Monday night football

As I was watching Monday Night Football this week I came to an interesting conclusion (aside from the fact that Tony Kornheiser's skin is really, really orange). It seems that people really, really love Peyton Manning and Tom Brady. And I am not just talking about mutual admiration either, I am talking about the full blown mancrushes that all sports media personnel currently have for Manning and Brady. They gush about their ability on the field and off the field and talk about how they are both future hall of famers.

While I am not one to gush, I personally like both guys, but I tend to like Peyton Manning a bit more. (My high school buddies would be shocked to hear this. Quick Tangent -- I actually named our lab cat specimen in Anatomy "Peyton" so that I could repeatedly stab it with a scalpel with no repercussions.)

Manning reminds me of the hypercompetitive guy in high school that you loved to have on your team but hated to play against.

You felt this way because he just wanted to win so badly that he really HAD to be good or else he would curl up in a fetal position and cry himself to sleep at night. Peyton, he has to be good because he's Archie's kid and therefore the order of the universe and the hopes of parents who live vicariously through their children would be crushed if Peyton was not a good football player.

My college roommate's father was at one point the all time leading scorer in New York State history, and while my buddy was a good player, he could never quite shake the fact that he was (insert legendary name here)'s son and people expected greatness from him.

Despite the fact that Manning has obvious physical gifts, he also possesses a ridiculous work ethic which has allowed him to become what many consider to be the best QB in the game. He does this with a rare sense of humor that many superstar athletes do not possess. Michael Jordan was able to pitch a lot of products because he was dry as toast and "safe" for advertisers. Manning hawks goods with his super delivery of witty lines and the willingness to poke fun at himself.

If Peyton Manning is the genetically superior ubercompetitor, Tom Brady



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would have to be considered the guy that, while maybe not supremely talented, was able to claw his way up from being a 6th round draft pick and mold himself into a great player. I'm not sure this is an accurate assumption, mainly because Mr. Brady is an extreme competitor, and also a very talented football player.

However, while the clock usually strikes midnight for Cinderella stories, Brady has become Cinderella the superstar with 3 rings and is currently on pace to shatter just about every major passing record this season.

Brady has been known for his unflappable demeanor in the pocket and on the field (the extreme opposite from Manning, who acts as if someone dumped fire ants on him before every play) his off the field activities have been questioned by many. Brady's romantic life is the talk of the northeast, and while it is not necessarily fair to criticize a guy's love life -- the media doesn't exactly have rules regarding people's personal lives these days.

While the two quarterbacks are very different people, they are both deserving of the accolades, both written and spoken, that are being given to them this season. As a fan of good football, I would encourage you to watch next weekend as the Patriots play the Colts, so that you can see what will eventually be two hall of fame quarterbacks slugging it out on the field.

Actions speak louder than words

It is often taken for granted how our actions are viewed by others, and that they speak louder than words. However, our words certainly can speak volumes.

We all need to set the right examples for our youth, always, but especially during festive seasons by not drinking and driving, consuming alcoholic beverages on our town streets and sidewalks or carrying open alcohol containers (cups, bottles, etc.).

These actions are not only open for interpretation and often send the wrong messages, but they are also illegal in our state and town.

Let's all make informed, responsible decisions during festive occasions and the upcoming holiday season.

— Chief Bill Harrell, Highlands PD

• CONSERVATIVE POV •

As if there are not problems enough

I don't know about you, but there was a time in my life when a subject like the Turkish Parliament giving their military the OK to pursue Kurdish rebels across the common border shared with Iraq would cause my eyes to glaze over. That's somewhere over there and what difference does it make anyway? Well, these days my curiosity forces me to at least try to understand what's going on. The more I dug into the subject, the more interesting it became.

If you are as ignorant of Turkey as I was when I started my research, let me share some of the general information I found. First, somewhere over there is at the Northeastern corner of the Mediterranean sharing its southern border with Syria.

It lies partially in both Europe and Asia, is quite large, about the size of Spain and France combined, and quite populous, about 70 million in population, 94% of which are nominal Muslim.

Turkey originated in 1923 in the wake of post-WW1 reshuffling. For several hundred years, the people were part of the Ottoman Empire which sided with Germany in the war and lost. Turkey was a founding member of the UN (1945), a member of NATO (1952) and has applied for membership in the European Union in 2005. This process is expected to take many years. Turkey has generally been an ally of the United States and has been helpful in providing a jumping-off point in moving troops and supplies in the effort in Iraq.

So what is causing the current flap? Evidently Kurdish rebels, residing in Northern Iraq, have been making incursions into Southern Turkey since 2004.

This situation seemed to be more of an aggravation than a national security issue until, on October 10, when the House Foreign Affairs Committee passed a resolution labeling as genocide the mass killings of Armenians by the Ottoman Empire during WW1.

What brought such a seemingly off-the-wall, cold-case issue to deserve a resolution from such a powerful committee?

On the surface, a few Democrat House members with large Armenian constituencies felt that the matter had gone unresolved for far too long and needed to be aired at a time when any offence to the Turks would complicate the Iraq war effort dramatically.



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

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi swore she would bring this resolution to the floor of the House for a vote, and for a brief moment her minions said they'd back her. The White House was aghast and Turkey was outraged to the point that they acted as they did. The Democrats realized they had stepped in it again and started backing away from their bonehead move. Pelosi now says maybe she didn't really mean what she

said about that vote.

Too late! Since our insensitive position was announced, and the Turks acted as they did, the crude oil market has spiked in price to \$90 per barrel as of this writing. This was in response to tight supplies and pipelines going through the area that would be affected. Nice going, Nancy.

As usual, the conversation turns to Hillary, who is unleashing her "women, vote for a woman" campaign as we write. Golly, if I was going to make a big deal about being the first woman, I would certainly make sure that Ms. Pelosi doesn't embarrass womanhood further as she has made a habit of doing. If Nancy is the prototype of female leadership, we just can't bear to have our Chief Executive of that gender.

Cal Thomas wrote in The Salt Lake Tribune, "There should be no rush to condemn a genocide that took place more than nine decades ago (and the very word 'genocide' is in dispute as a description of what happened). Politically, it might play well for Democrats, but it could backfire and severe repercussions for American foreign policy, American forces in Iraq and American interests in Iraq and throughout the region for the years to come. The next president cannot possibly enjoy long-term benefits from such shortsightedness by House Democrats."

When I wrote my first column, about a year ago, I strongly warned of the disaster

that would ensue if the liberals gained control of Congress and Ms. Pelosi became Speaker of the House. In hindsight, no right-thinking person can argue that that warning was not warranted.

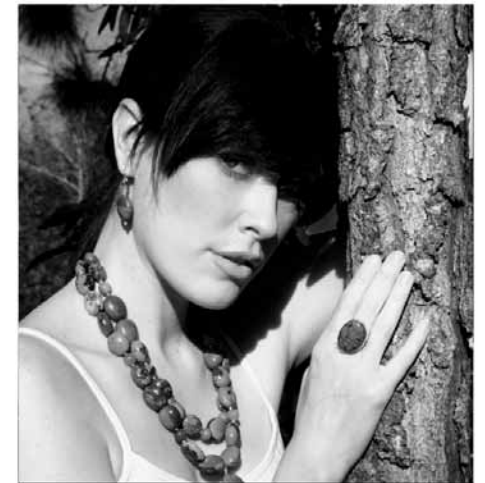
Here's another. If Hillary is elected, this country will become a second-rate socialist nation in short order. As the rest of the developing and developed world becomes more capitalistic, we will be taking from the productive and giving to the growing legions who are on the take.

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Shown from left, committee members, Jane Youmans, Martha Betz, Club Administrator, Linda Driver, chairman, and Betty Doss. Not shown Robin Carter.

Club gathers gifts for the needy

Highlands Country Club recently celebrated "Christmas in October" with all the trimmings, including a beautifully decorated tree and a visit from Santa. Everyone got into the spirit of Christmas by bringing gifts for the needy. The Pro Shop collected presents all week, and members brought even more gifts the night of the party. As you can see, everyone was extremely generous.

The club would like to distribute these gifts through local organizations to insure that the people who need them the most will have a Merry Christmas.

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DIRECTIONS: HWY 64 WEST, TURN RIGHT ONTO MIRROR LAKE ROAD, GO OVER BRIDGE TO TOP OF THE HILL, TURN LEFT ONTO BILLY CABIN ROAD, LEFT ONTO BROWNELL ROAD TO 55 BROWNELL ROAD ON RIGHT.

Couples recognized for service

Agreement links WCU, Center for Life Enrichment

Dr. Mark and Kathy
Whitehead.



A luncheon held recently to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Western Carolina University's Honors College included special recognition for two Highlands residents who have worked diligently to improve ties between WCU and the town, and the signing of an agreement linking the university and Highlands' Center for Life Enrichment.

Dr. Mark Whitehead and Kathy Whitehead, both members of the Honors College's Advisory Board, were honored during the luncheon as recipients of an Honors Medallion for special service.

The medallion, created earlier this year by the college's student board of directors, is awarded to Honors College graduates and to special friends of the college. Honors College Dean Brian Railsback told the group that gathered for the 10th anniversary luncheon that formation of the advisory board two years ago would not have been possible without the behind-the-scenes work of the Whiteheads.

Advisory board members assist in long-range planning for Honors College students, and work to improve educational opportunities for Highlands residents.

During the luncheon, Dr. Whitehead, who also serves as president of the Center for Life Enrichment, and WCU Chancellor John W. Bardo added their signatures to an agreement in which the university and CLE pledge to work together to expand educational options for town residents.

The CLE has been offering lectures, courses and events in Highlands for the past 15 years to enrich the lives of Highlands citizens. Over the past several years, WCU faculty members have taken on an increasingly prominent role in delivering lectures and teaching courses in Highlands, Railsback said.

The agreement puts a touch of formality on a working relationship that is already thriving, said Railsback, who taught a WCU course in creative writing in Highlands last summer, and who teaches a popular literature course for CLE each September. For more information about the advisory board's work with WCU's Honors College, and the agreement between WCU and the Center for Life Enrichment, contact Mark Whitehead at (828) 526-5370 or Railsback at (828) 227-2101.

... ANOTHER VIEW continued from page 5

Never did he show his teeth. I reached into his mouth with complete confidence and pulled quills from his tongue and cheek. We worked for more than an hour. The woman stroked and soothed him while I plucked quill after endless quill. We finished as the trucks returned with the rest of our wood. I lifted the dog from the table and placed him on the floor. He limped to the front porch. I had put out food and water for him in Anna bowls. He lay on the concrete, too weak to stand, and lapped wearily. A neighbor dog, a Saint Bernard, and notorious bully, challenged him for the food, growled menacingly. Bear, I had named him during the operation, rested his chin on Anna's bowl and answered the challenge with bared teeth and an ugly snarl.

"He's going to kill him," I thought and had no idea how to prevent the impending attack. If the bully dog had

any idea that his adversary was almost too weak to stand, he would have pounced immediately. But such was the show of bravado on Bear's part, that the Saint Bernard hesitated, cowered, and remarkably, slunk away.

I cheered silently for the courageous beast when my dog approached the food bowl. Amazingly, Bear moved to allow her access to her food, as if he knew that he was a guest and she his hostess. The thought that he was somehow special came again. Anna and Bear finished their meal in harmony. I spread an old blanket on the porch for a bed. "Bear," I said, "I'd like to keep you, but if you think you can find your way home, and are strong enough, I'll understand." I could have put him in the house, but I wouldn't make this remarkable animal a prisoner, place him under house arrest. He was free to choose.

•See ANOTHER VIEW page 47

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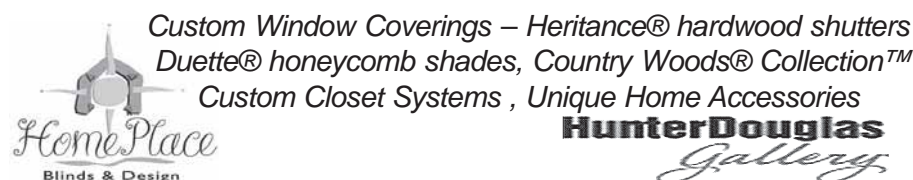
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• FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

A recap of last week's events

At the Town board meeting last Wednesday the Chamber of Commerce director, Bob Kieltyka, made a plea for Macon County not to take away the Occupancy tax from the Chamber. There has been discussion by the County manager and the County Board of Commissioners to the effect that both the Franklin and Highlands Chamber would no longer get the occupancy tax which is used to attract tourists to our area. This would have a tremendous impact on both Chambers' ability to function as an advocate of their towns. It is my hope that the county Board of Commissioners will reverse any attempt to deprive the respective Chambers of Commerce what has always been one of their chief sources of income and means of supporting tourism.

This week I declared by proclamation Red Ribbon Week in Highlands. What is Red Ribbon Week, you ask? It is a time to focus on drug awareness and education in our schools. This week has been a week of activities for students and teachers every day. On Monday morning I made this proclamation at the school over their speaker system. Police Chief Harrell described the origin of the concept of Red Ribbon Week, he and Officer Ronnie Castle gave all students and teachers a red ribbon and bracelet to wear every day, and teachers hung red ribbons outside their rooms.

Signs were created, such as "Drugs Are Garbage," and placed on trash cans, and announcements were made every day with facts about drugs. On the final day of the week everyone will wear something red and symbolize walking away from drugs by walking a lap around the track during recess or PE. All classes made either posters, wrote poems, stories or essays during this drug awareness and education week— a great emphasis for students to work on in a fight to free our schools of drugs. It is imperative that we make every effort to eliminate drug use amongst our young people so they can have a happy and fruitful life.

At the Board meeting last week we had a presentation by architects Mitchel Sorin and John Fisher from Asheville regarding the new Town Hall. It was a good start to a big project for the town. Many changes will be made in this initial effort and when we get to a more finalized plan, we will want to involve the public more in the process. As usual, all



Mayor Don Mullen

comments regarding the building of a new town hall are welcome.

We are also working closely with McGavran Engineering out of Charlotte to streamline the use of our utility poles to insure they remain not only safe but efficient and cost effective in delivering to the people of Highlands the quality of service which they deserve.

This process will continue over the next few months as

we develop a new ordinance to better facilitate the use of our utility poles. Our public works department has always done an excellent job with this, but the Board of Commissioners felt like outside consultation would insure that we were as effective as possible in this important area.

We are still discussing with Macon County the method of payment for the new Solid Waste Transfer Station. We must have this in place by next June or we will have to take our solid waste off the mountain will cost us more. We will be asking the County to withhold charging us tipping fees for several years in order to make up the cost of the transfer station. Most of our board thinks this is a good compromise and we hope the county agrees.

For this year we will also request the same funding for Recreation which we had last year and do not plan at this time to place the Recreation department nor any of our recreation buildings under the management of the county. We will request the same \$500,000 from the county to run the Recreation Department as we had last year and hope to receive this payment from them to allay the cost of recreation on the mountain for all county residents who want to use our facility.

Burning ban partially lifted

The Macon County Fire Marshal's office has lifted the burning ban in Macon County for fires located within 100 feet of an occupied dwelling. Fires outside the 100 feet area of an occupied dwelling are still prohibited by the N.C. Division of Forest Resources.

If you have any questions about prohibited burning, please call the N.C. Forest Service at 369-8677 or the Macon County Fire Marshal's office at 349-2067.



Teaching Fellow April Hicks (Highlands School Class of 2006) works with kindergarten student at Smokey Mountain Elementary School in Whittier.

Teacher education program wins national Christa McAuliffe Award

The third time proved the charm for Western Carolina University's College of Education and Allied Professions, 2007 co-winner of the Christa McAuliffe Excellence in Teacher Education Award presented annually by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

Western for the past three years has been among the national finalists for the award given in recognition of excellence in teacher education. The award is named in honor of Christa McAuliffe, the teacher who died when the space shuttle Challenger exploded shortly after liftoff in January 1986.

Western shares this year's award with teacher education programs at the University of Northern Colorado and St. Cloud State University in Minnesota.

"Our philosophy of teacher preparation at Western is in alignment with Christa McAuliffe's often-quoted motto 'I touch the future. I teach,'" said Michael Dougherty, dean of WCU's College of Education and Allied Professions. "Through our ongoing work with our many public school partners across Western North Carolina, we know we are living up to her legacy. By preparing and nurturing high-quality teachers who work in our schools and make a difference in pupil learning, we play a role in shaping the young people who represent the future of our region, our state and our nation."

The award recognizes that Western is advancing the field of teacher education by identifying promising practices for measuring the impact of programs on teacher candidate knowledge, particularly on pupil learning from pre-kindergarten through grade 12, Dougherty said.

The McAuliffe award is the second national recognition for Western's teacher education program in the past two years. The Association of Teacher Educators in February 2006 presented its Distinguished Program in Teacher Education award, given to teacher education programs that exhibit outstanding collaboration with local school systems, to WCU in recognition of the success of its School-University Teacher Education Partnership, better known as SUTEP.

Western Chancellor John W. Bardo said the national honors provide important, independent validation of the strength of the university's teacher education program.

"I can think of no stronger evidence of the efforts of our faculty, staff, students and school partners than for Western to win two national awards for its teacher education program within two years. That is unheard of," Bardo said. "We are facing serious shortages across the state and nationally in the number of qualified teachers needed to help ensure that our children are prepared for careers in an increasingly global economy. I hope these awards will increase the number of teacher education majors at Western. I am convinced that no institution prepares teachers better than Western – period."

SUTEP is part of WCU's effort to improve the academic achievement of students in all grade levels by providing assistance to educators at each step in their development – as student teachers, as they first enter the teaching profession, and as they reach the middle of their careers and seek additional professional development.

•See TEACHER page 17

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• VIDEO GUY •

'Running with Scissors'

The 2007 Comic/Dramatic/memoir (although there is a small legal issue regarding the use of that word), starring Gwyneth Paltrow (Infamous), Annette Bening (Being Julia), Joseph Cross (Strangers with Candy, Flags of Our Fathers), Alec Baldwin (The Good Shepherd). Directed by Ryan Murphy (Dirty Tricks). Based on the memoir of Augusten Burroughs. Rated R for, well a lot of reasons. Definitely not for the kids.

The Storyline: Little Augusten Burroughs (Joseph Cross) has parents that are, well, let's say, a little testy sometimes. Actually, that's a bit of an understatement, Deirdre and Norman Burroughs (both roles brilliantly played by Benning and Baldwin) are the Uber-dysfunctional parents, the Anti-Ozzie and Harriet, the kind of parental lunatics that will make you appreciate your own sweet Mom and Dad a little more.

But before you write them off as the weirdest folks you have ever met, you'll need to check out the freak psychiatrist (Brian Cox is hilarious and frightening as the demented Dr Finch) Auguste's parents are about to drop their little cherub off to. At the advanced age of 12, our little protagonist is given away to the only family on the planet weirder than his own. Augustan meets and forms a variety of friendships and relationships, none of them healthy, with the Finch family. Closest to normal is Finch's daughter, Natalie (Evan Rachel Wood, charming in a demented fashion) befriends Augusten (if you can call playing electroshock therapy befriend), and shows him some of the ways and rules, such as they are, in this chaotic household. Augusten ends up making some rather big decisions for a rather young guy.

OK, a very good movie, and it so rare to find a story that deals with childhood abandonment, near fatal drug use, mental instability and pedophilia in such a charming and amusing manner. Bearing in mind that the events described are true (though the family represented by the Finches have sued, claiming events were exaggerated [not false, mind you, just exaggerated]), it has the potential to be a horrifying story, Burrough's account of his twisted family life and the absolutely insane Dr. Finch is hilarious, clever, colorfully (to say the least), and despite the horrible circumstances he



Stuart of
The Movie Stop

grew up with it is ultimately a feel good story (in a dark, dark, comic manner).

If you like this story, consult your therapist (though after seeing this film, you may have second thoughts about seeing a therapist). There are no stories like this, but a few that come close might be Strangers With Candy, Little Miss Sunshine, Stranger Than Fiction, Relative Strangers, and the brilliantly dark and demented Four Rooms. These

and about 5,000 others are available for sale or rent at Movie Stop Video, come on by and take a look.

... HIS & HERS from pg 9

and on DVD, after a preview at Dartmouth College on 27 October.

Lastly, even as you read this, Hillary is conducting another possible illegality. When I worked for John Anderson, independent candidate for President in 1980, the FEC instructed that Campaign to return donations to certain contributors. We asked whether we could encourage donors to "re-donate" those funds back to the Campaign in an acceptable way.

The FEC said no, because that would violate FEC laws and regulations. If the laws and regulations are the same now as they were then, Hillary's presidential campaign is violating the law right now. According to press accounts, the letters returning tainted money from the Norman Hsu affair ask the recipients to re-donate the money to the Campaign.

Ms. Clinton will hear about this column, and will ask her legal minions about filing suit. Various publishers have been carrying my weekly opinion columns for up to 12 years. In accord with Supreme Court decisions, the carriers of opinion pieces generally cannot be sued by someone who takes umbrage at such opinions.

As for me, I welcome Ms. Clinton suing for libel. Please, pretty please with a cherry on top, sue me. I would happily come to court with attorneys armed with Supreme Court law and baskets of evidence on whether you can be properly described as a criminal.

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

'Environmental Studies' college students in Highlands to work on special projects

Youth sighting in Highlands: A gang of very savvy college students have taken over the Highlands Biological Station, both to advance their environmental studies – and give back a bit to the communities they're visiting this fall semester.

The program – now in its sixth year of operation at the Highlands field site – brings the students here under the University of North Carolina's Institute for the Environment. Of the 11 students here this year, 10 are from the UNC-Chapel Hill campus, one from Western Carolina University.

Besides carrying a serious course load, the students also work with volunteer local mentors to produce serious scientific papers, both for publication and for use by localities throughout Western North Carolina. The research topics this year range from continuing work on the Highlands greenway project, to further research on and mapping of buffer zones along Highlands-area streams to scientific review of native hemlock mortality in the Southern Appalachians.

"We are very pleased with the group of students this year," said Dr. Anya Hinkle, associate director of the Highlands station, and one of students' professors this year. The others sharing the bulk of the teaching load include Dr. James Costa, the station's director and Dr. Gary Wein, executive director of the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, as well as other visiting scientists, professors and researchers.

"These are bright, personable young people with a true sense of mission and purpose," said Hinkle. "We think they will mature and develop into top-flight scientists and community leaders."

The students arrived here the week of August 27-31 and were quickly put to the task of getting to know their environment with an overnight field trip along the Appalachian Trail and a rafting trip down the Wild and Scenic Chattooga River. This past week (Sept. 17-21,) they took a field trip on the Little Tennessee River to get a perspective on Cherokee and pre-Cherokee cultures. Other field trips are planned, including to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

"This area of Southern Appalachia represents a living laboratory for student research," Hinkle commented. "This makes for a win-win situation, both for our research needs, and the students' advancement."

• Jason Baker is working with the Balsam Mountain Trust on the restoration of Sugar Loaf Creek following a dam break several months ago, and the development

of protocols to respond to similar events.

• Brian Houseman is working with Dr. Gary Wein of the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust to evaluate the new Jackson County steep slope ordinance and its possible impact if enacted in Macon County.

• Brian Levo is working with mentor Hillrie Quin on developing ordinances relevant to establishing the first loop of the Highlands Greenway, using GPS and GIS technologies to develop, and post on the Internet, a master Greenway map.

• Andrea Martin is working with Dr. Brian Kloeppel at the Coweta Hydrologic Laboratory, to investigate the effects of soil temperature and plant species from the death of native hemlocks.

• Sandy Skolochenko is also working with Dr. Brian Kloeppel at Coweta laboratory, and fellow student Andrea Martin, on the results of hemlock mortality on plants and soil temperatures.

... TEACHER continued from page 15

Established in 1997 as one of 14 such partnerships in North Carolina, SUTEP has formal agreements with 96 schools in 18 WNC school systems and informal partnerships with the remaining school systems and charter schools in the region, said Ruth McCreary, director of SUTEP since 2001.

Through the partnership, which also involves faculty from WCU's College of Arts and Sciences, educators from local systems help provide a "real-world classroom" perspective to students in the university's teacher education program. Teachers serve as clinical faculty, co-teaching selected courses with WCU instructors in an effort to blend theory and practice, and as cooperating teachers working with faculty members on education research projects. Local school systems also provide traditional pre-service field experience for WCU's student teachers.

The Christa McAuliffe Award recognizes outstanding programs in teacher education at AASCU member institutions. AASCU institutions prepare more than 50 percent of all new teachers in the United States each year. The award highlights the major role that state colleges and universities play in the preparation of teachers.

For more information about teacher education at WCU, contact the College of Education and Allied Professions at (828) 227-7311 or visit the Web site at <http://www.ceap.wcu.edu/>.

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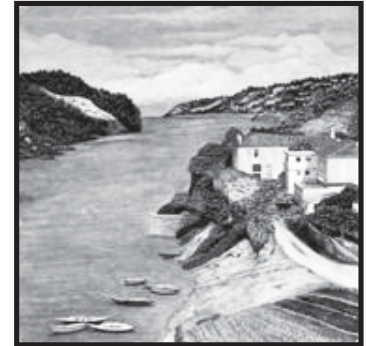
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... LETTERS continued from page 2 Need more facts about referendum

Dear Editor,

I have just a few thoughts about the referendum.

First, did you know that the land for the new 5-6 school will cost you \$2 ½ million over and above the \$42.1 million? Why was that amount not included in the total cost of the school bond referendum? Was it to make the \$42.1 million not so big? What else do we not know about the referendum?

I am disgusted that the school board planned to use \$5,000 of our own money to promote its agenda.

As for the current fitness center - how many people will continue to pay \$48 a month to maintain their membership when they can pay \$20 a month at the new county fitness center? I would think not many. In fact, would this not put the current fitness center and other privately owned fitness centers out of business? Several commissioners have stated that they have discussed this matter. So what did they discuss? Are we not due an explanation?

A corporation named Wonderful Earth Treasures owns 5.46 acres very close to the proposed new RecPlex on Siler Road. According to records on file with the North Carolina Secretary of State, Mr. Larry Stenger is the registered agent of the corporation and both he and his wife are listed as directors of the corporation. The

property was recently rezoned commercial. Is it possible that Mr. Stenger stands to gain from the RecPlex? Mr. Stenger stated in a recent letter to the editor that he is saddened to see those who are blinded by money. The citizens of Macon County deserve an explanation of this matter.

Does anyone really think that the tax rate will remain at .4% if the land transfer tax is passed? Will it not grow to a full 1% in a few years? The history of the sales tax should give us some indication. It just goes up and up and up.

Why not stick a fork in this turkey? Vote no and send it back to the county commission with a note saying do your job. Take these issues one at a time and give us all the facts so that we might make an informed decision.

Bob Lavery
Franklin

May the best proposal win

Dear Editor,

Our organization, Macon Homeowners and Taxpayers Assn. (maconhomeowners1000@sprynet.com) who are promoting the passage FOR the Land Transfer Levy on the November 6th

• See LETTERS page 19

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... LETTERS continued from page 18

referendum, was privileged and welcomed to attend the "Macon County Against the Transfer Tax" meeting at the Macon County Community Building on October 16th.

With about 40 of its members in attendance, I was invited to attend the meeting and was impressed with the fairness and civility of the program.

As an opponent of their position on the Land Transfer Levy, I was invited to ask questions and project our position FOR the Land Transfer Referendum.

I was surprised at the many issues each side supported and are in agreement about.

Many of those positions have to do with the overall structure of Macon County, most of which are beyond our control and is a result of the natural "Tale of Two Cities" and lack of one central Home Rule.

I have no doubt that this group of Realtors and interested citizens will make

their position known at the commission meeting required to adopt a resolution and budget, should the Transfer Levy pass. The County has State requirements to be met in open session following passage.

There are many items we agree upon, such as exemption of churches, the disabled, social security limited income homesteaders, military, non-profit organizations, farmers and transfers by operation of law by will by intestacy, merger or consolidation.

While we will each be working for our cause, it was a worthwhile effort. As the only opposing person in attendance to its ideas, I was treated in a considerate and friendly way. May the best proposal win!

RW "Mac" Grady,
Acting Chairman
Macon Homeowners and
Taxpayers Assn.

Harmony with creation is not an achievable one in a fallen world

Dear Editor,

This is a response to Katie Brugger's Oct. 4 "Reflections from Turtle Pond." In her column Katie summarizes a conversation she had with a liberal Christian. The topic of this conversation was the origin of man. Katie's friend explained that she believed in evolution but also in the Garden of Eden. Once they had this established they set out to find the exact point in history that God reached down to man in order to set him apart. Katie then begins to effectively point out several glaring problems with this careless worldview. Why careless? Because any time that the Bible is subjected to the theories of man, it suffers irreparable harm.

Sound extreme? Just listen to what evolutionary humanist Thomas Huxley a.k.a. "Darwin's Bulldog" had to say on the issue of combining Biblical teaching with the theory of evolution: "I am fairly at a loss to comprehend how anyone, for a moment, can doubt that Christian the-

ology must stand or fall with the historical trustworthiness of the Jewish scriptures. The very conception of the Messiah, or Christ, is inextricably interwoven with Jewish history; the identification of Jesus of Nazareth with that Messiah rests upon the interpretation of the passages of the Hebrew scriptures which have no evidential value unless they possess the historical character assigned to them." If "the story of the deluge a fiction; that of the Fall a legend; and that of the Creation the dream of a seer; if all these definite and detailed narratives of apparently real events have no more value as history than have the stories of the regal period of Rome - what is to be said about the Messianic doctrine? And what about the authority of the writers of the New Testament, who, on this theory, have not merely accepted flimsy fictions for solid truths, but have built the very foundations of Christian dogma upon legendary

• See LETTERS page 29

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Taxpayers' Alert!!!

There are two items on the Nov. 6 ballot we urge you to say "NO" to.

We encourage Highlands voters to VOTE AGAINST the \$64 million bond referendum being proposed during the Nov. 6 election.

This proposal contains very little for the people of Highlands. Even though we are paying almost 50% of the ad valorem taxes in Macon County, we will receive less than 8% of the bond issue.

These bonds will be sold for 30 years with millions of dollars in interest paid by Macon County taxpayers and will be passed on to future generations of taxpayers.

Please VOTE "NO"
on the bond issue for Nov. 6

Also:

We encourage Highlands voters to VOTE AGAINST the real estate transfer tax. This tax will impact Highlands more than any other part of Macon County. Again, Highlands taxpayers will be asked to pay a disproportionate share of the taxes, with most of the money staying in Franklin.

Please
VOTE "NO" on Nov. 6

Paid for by the Macon County Taxpayers' Association.

School Board goes 'on the record'

At the Oct. 22 Macon County School Board meeting, members took steps to clean up any perception of illegal actions on the part of the BOE in support of the upcoming \$42.1 million school bond referendum.

Chairman of the BOE Donnie Edwards read into the record the resolution the board signed and adopted in support of the bond.

"This resolution verifies that the BOE supports the passage of the bond referendum to increase available capital funding for public school construction and confirms and reiterates its commitment to use all public funds designated for school capital needs in the most efficient manner possible based upon the highest standards of academic excellence," read Edwards. "Therefore, BOE members will continue to exercise their First Amendment rights to support its passage by the citizens of Macon County."

BOE attorney John Henning, Jr., read a prepared statement into the record responding to recent reports of alleged wrongdoing by the board concerning the upcoming bond referendum.

He read:

"Recently, misleading information has been published concerning the BOE and expenditures related to the upcoming bond issue in Macon County. The BOE has approved this press release to provide the citizens of Macon County with accurate information.

"First, any implication that the BOE approved specific expenditures to advocate for the passage of the bond referendum is incorrect. At its regular meeting on Aug. 27, 2007, the board was presented with and approved a line item transfer of funds for the purpose of educating the public about the upcoming bond election. This is a perfectly legitimate and legal expenditure of school funds. At no time was the BOE presented with, nor did it approve, the specific contents of any publication.

"Second, the content of certain publications paid for with school funds included language directly advocating the passage of the bond referendum. Although BOE members may legally advocate for passage of the bond referendum, these expenditures of school funds by school staff were not appropriate. Although there is no state law that specifically holds that such spending by local education agencies is impermissible, the BOE desires that all school activities be conducted within clear boundaries of the law and, after consulting legal counsel, the Superintendent recommended to the BOEW that the money be reimbursed to the school account.

"Finally, a committee of private citizens has since been formed to reimburse the BOE for any expenditure related to the questionable publications.

Finance officer Betty Waldroop presented documentation verifying the reconciliation of payments and services rendered in

support of the School Bond Referendum by the BOE was presented showing reimbursements received from the Citizens for Better Schools covering yard sign expenses to Sellers, \$47.98 to Quill for labels and payment for printing services of \$687.15.

Chairman Edwards closed the issue when he read "In short, a mistake was made and it has been addressed."

... ZACHARY continued
from page 1

The board agreed to pay Crawford \$50,000 in earnest money prior to closing.

The plot is adjacent to a 2.01-acre plot owned by Lucille Potts now under contract with the county and set to close on Oct. 31.

The county realized early on that Zachary Park would have to be expanded to accommodate teams and parking. During games, a lack of parking is causing safety problems on Buck Creek where vehicles often line the road.

The county currently owns 4.80 acres – previously two lots split by Aunt Dora Drive – upon which the current Zachary Park now resides.

Part of the recreation bond on the ballot Nov. 6 will enable the county to purchase more land in the Zachary Park vicinity to further expand the park for fields, facilities and parking.

But meanwhile, the county has agreed to buy the Crawford piece which when combined with the Potts piece will immediately add another 3.79 acres to the park regardless of the outcome of the bond referendum. Both pieces butt up to the current Zachary Park.

Last year, the county purchased a 1.74-acre tract for \$150,000 with a "swap" for a piece closer to the current park perimeter in mind, but at Monday night's meeting commissioners said it's not likely the swap will take place.

Commission chair Charlie Leatherman said the board hasn't decided what it will do with the property.

In other business, the commission agreed to accept Bank of America's proposal for the \$2 million Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB) purchase.

Twice a year for 15 years, the county will pay \$51,070.27 at 3.55% and when the bond matures in 15 years, the interest accrued will equal \$2 million.

"Basically, we will be getting \$2 million for \$1.5 million," said Commissioner Simpson.

County Finance Officer Evelyn Southard said by the time it comes due, \$2 million will be in the account. The county gets the benefit of the interest but doesn't pay interest.

The QZAB money is being used for renovations to East Franklin Elementary School. QZAB money can only be used for renovations and only if the footprint of the building doesn't change. – **Kim Lewicki**

Adventures with the Sarjeants in Northlandia

By Jean Sarjeant

We had a good trip to Ottawa, Greenland, Labrador, Newfoundland then on to Nova Scotia and home. The weather in Canada's capital in early September was almost as hot as we left in Virginia, however our flight to Greenland deposited us on the barren shores in near freezing temperatures.

We were hustled off to our "Little Red Ship" which was to become our home for about two weeks. There were only about 90 of us, plus the crew. The ship was small partly because of the nature of the trip but also because of the icebergs, which can be a real danger for larger ships.

We all settled in, made our way to the dining room where we very quickly became acquainted with our fellow travelers from all over the U.S. and Canada and a few from Europe. Food on board was wonderful which made for long meal times and lots of conversation.

We hurried off on Zodiac expeditions right away, lots of photo ops with beautiful snow-capped mountains, very blue sky and huge icebergs, not to mention birds and later on polar bears, walruses, foxes and other critters.

We had great lectures by noted photographers, Inuit leaders, geology professors, research scientists, historians, archaeologists, artists, marine mammal researchers, musicians and of course cod fishermen who no longer have a livelihood in the industry because it has been overfished by both the foreign and local industries. The Canadian government closed the fishing suddenly and the natives found themselves floundering. The government also decided some of the little fishing communities had to be relocated – called resettlement — because it was too costly to serve them with health care, schools, etc. Some moved their entire home on a raft behind a "dory" to a new location farther up or down the coast. It was a very sad time for the locals. Many left Labrador and Newfoundland and went out west to Calgary. Huge oil fields and minerals have been found in both places and in a few years these fishermen will become "drillers"



Jean and Pete Sarjeant recently enjoyed two weeks crossing the Arctic Ocean visiting Greenland, Labrador and Newfoundland. They viewed and photographed huge icebergs, polar bears, walrus, and whales; visited Inuit people's villages, the new province of Nunavut on Baffinland and saw glaciers receding due to global warming. The Sarjeants lived in Highlands for 16 years and recently moved to Bedford, VA to be near family.

and the provinces will thrive. It is thought the oil reserves surpass those of the Middle East!

In the meantime, cod is allowed to be fished for a family's supply only, which is too bad because it is a wonderful fish. Years ago after the cod boats arrived in their little harbors, the fish was quickly cleaned, the backbone removed, then soaked in heavily salted water for several days, dried on "flakes" in the sun for days or weeks. Flakes are wooden platforms made of small tree trunks, above standing water so the fish wouldn't get too hot and burn. When the cod was "hard dry" and heavily salted, it was stacked like timber and shipped all over the world. To prepare the fish for the table months or years later, it had to be soaked in fresh water for 3 or 4 days, changing the water daily then cooked. We had the pleasure of being served a true salt-cod meal and it was wonderful!

The Inuits ate (and still do) a lot of caribou and seal. They use the entire animal — the oil for lamps, the meat for sustenance and the skins for their clothing. We were taught some words in their language but no one seemed to understand us when we spoke it. Must have been the pronunciation because we were all good students.

Sailing from Greenland across the Davis Strait to Baffinland was very rough. It took about one and a half days of rolling sea – 30 foot swells, and our little ship didn't have stabilizers. People disappeared to their staterooms with little white bags and the doctor on board was very busy.

We were told on a previous crossing the captain ordered everyone to bed to avoid falling. It was during the rough seas that a passenger from Vancouver traveling alone suffered a heart attack/stroke. It was a full 24 to 36 hours before we were able to get into quiet water to permit a safe Zodiac trip to shore where she was taken by helicopter to Goose Bay, Labrador. She needed more care than that little hospital could give so was Medivaced out to St John's, Newfoundland where sadly, she died the following day.

Another passenger had to be airlifted out because he developed pneumonia. Other than that and a few falls, some down steps because of the rough crossing, we all made out just fine. I then clearly understood why we all had to have our doctor's written permission to go on the trip. Other than the fact that Pete went fishing for char at a frigid lake on a frigid day, with rain and sleet falling and caught nothing, and my camera broke the second day out we did have a great, memorable time.

The scenery was spectacular. It was strenuous but well worth it. Oh yes, we had a musician on board who taught us good old shanty songs and Pete had the opportunity to play the pipes and was well received doing so.

One little town we visited - Conche NFLD - had never had a cruise ship visit so we were met at the dock by their fire truck blaring away, the Town Crier reading a proclamation greeting us and the school children singing and dancing for us. School was closed for classes that day so the entire town could take part in the festivities. Very moving.

After the trip, we spent three days in St John's NFLD -- a place we hadn't been before -- then sailed 14 hours by ferry to Sidney, Nova Scotia where we rented a car and drove to Halifax for three days before flying home. It was good to get home and be able to say neither of us fell nor suffered any serious problems. We both agreed

our serious Adventure Canada days might be a thing of the past though before our luck runs out.

I must stop rambling, but just had to touch on what we did and what we saw. I truly could go on. Everything we did was documented by Pete -- his camera worked just fine — and the photographer who will send us a DVD. You may be sure we'll re-live the trip many times over!

... HELP continued from page 1

Each year, the town pays about \$100,000 in tipping fees at the landfill when it drops off the municipal garbage it collects from residents and businesses in town.

Come July 1, 2008 the land fill operations on Rich Gap Road will be renovated to handle the transferring of both C&D and MSW to the Franklin landfill. Burial will no longer take place at the Rich Gap landfill.

County Manager Sam Greenwood said the county simply can't afford to operate two landfills – one on Rich Gap Road and one in Franklin — per the new standards.

The combined cost to upgrade the landfill from a its current "dump" status to two transfer stations – one for C&D and one for the town's municipal solid waste (MSW) — is \$1.2 million. The county is willing to pay for the C&D transfer station estimated to cost \$700,000 but not the town's MSW transfer station estimated to cost \$475,000.

At the recent Town Board/County Commission meeting in Franklin, there was some confusion over tipping fees when Greenwood said the county hasn't been charging the town tipping fees. What he meant to say, and perhaps said but was misheard, was "transfer fees."

At The Oct. 22 Macon County Commission meeting, Greenwood explained the difference between tipping and transfer fees.

"Transfer fees are based more on volume than weight," he said. "If the county were charging, it would cost the town about \$50,000 a year to have its garbage "transferred" down the mountain to the landfill," he said. "But currently we don't charge the town for that because since J&B comes back down empty after they dump at the landfill and they do that for us for free."

He said that practice will change once the landfill is renovated because J&B won't be hauling C&D up the mountain anymore.

"At that point the transfer fee will be built into the tipping fee, but we will likely separate it out so it's clear what costs what," he said.

At the Oct. 17 Town Board meeting Commissioner Herb James voted against asking the county to forego tipping fees. Instead, he wanted to ask the county to split the cost of the MSW transfer station.

In other business, the town heard a presentation on the new Town Hall complex.

Though commissioners appeared to approve of the overall design concept, they didn't agree on the layout and square-footage allocations in the Town Hall itself and they requested inclusion of the clock currently on top of Town Hall.

The overall square footage of the new complex is about 13,000 with 4,900 for the Town Hall; 3,489 for the police department, 1,200 for a boardroom and 2,051 for the Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Amy Patterson said the initial layout didn't include enough space for the Town Engineer. Mayor Don Mullen said there really wasn't enough space allocated for Town Hall functions and questioned the need to include the Chamber of Commerce in the scenario.

The architects said they hadn't have specific costs but said it would likely be between \$2.25 million and \$2.5 million. They are returning in two weeks to discuss it further.



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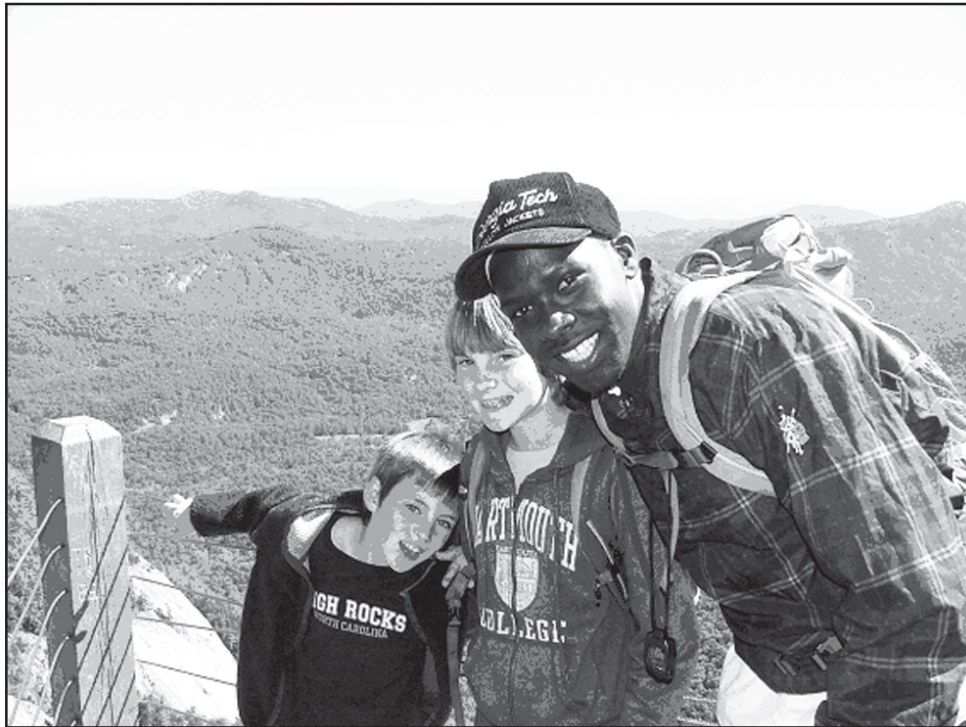
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Abraham Deng with Gardner Davis and friend on Whiteside Trail.

Lost boy finds friends in Highlands

By Gardner Davis
Contributor

How many young men do you know who walked a thousand miles at age six and crossed a crocodile infested river when he didn't know how to swim? Abraham Deng has. He is one of the Lost Boys of Sudan.

Abraham Deng came to Highlands on October 10 to spend a few days and tell his story. Ed Bryant, a seasonal Highlands resident, introduced him to the Davis family.

"I first met Abraham when I was on the Board of Directors of the Lost Boys of Sudan Foundation," said Bryant. "We were helping the boys get acclimated to the U.S. with jobs, education and health care. As planned, we worked ourselves out of a job."

Bryant said it was obvious to him that Deng had a lot of potential.

"Abraham is bright with a strong work ethic and I became the quarterback to help him get his education at South Wesleyan University near Clemson," said Bryant. "We have considered him an unofficially adopted son of ours. He spends the holidays with us and he has meant a lot to our family."

My dad, a friend of Bryant's, invited Abraham to Highlands to meet him and help him with his applications for medical school. While Abraham was in Highlands he spoke to a few groups.

Abraham has done many things we can't even dream about. With some of his cousins, he was tending cattle away from his Dinka village in southern Sudan when Islamist government forces attacked his predominantly Christian village in southern Sudan.

The next day, boys started walking. Hundreds grew into thousands: an

exodus happening in Sudan. They didn't know where they were going. They just knew they couldn't go back. The older children (ages 10 to 13) helped the younger ones survive.

In the jungle, they survived on roots and leaves and kernels of corn and wet mud for water. Lions attacked them. They got sick. Many died.

Abraham buried some of his friends at age seven, by covering them in thorns and praying over them. The rest walked on to Ethiopia. A United Nations refugee camp provided them some humanitarian relief in Ethiopia. There in 1990, a 16-year-old friend named Barnabus introduced him to Jesus. When he was just 10-years-old, Abraham believed that Jesus is the Christ and Lord and was baptized.

On May 25, 1991, the lost boys and girls were forced out of Ethiopia by soldiers at gunpoint. According to Bryant, a change in the Russian-supported government in Ethiopia resulted in an Islamic government hostile to the Sudanese refugees.

Soldiers chased them to the Gilo River where Abraham decided he would die because he could not swim. His friend said, "Hold on to me, kick your feet, and pray."

Abraham said he thought about Daniel in the lions' den, and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace. "I decided to have faith in God," he said.

He and his friend made it across the river despite being shot at, and seeing their friends drowned and eaten by crocodiles. Miraculously, he swam across a river when he could not even swim.

• See LOST BOY page 28

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Great in town location on Oak Lane features a level lot on Mill Creek and great privacy, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, fireplace and small den. Some basic furnishings are available. Don't miss this charmer. Offered at \$495,000. mls #61293



SAGEE WOODS. Well built quality home with 3 bed, 3 1/2 baths, cathedral ceilings, hardwood, marble & tile floors, 3 fireplaces, copper guttering & 2 garages. Air purification, sound & generator systems. \$1,750,000. mls #60037



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RUSTIC ELEGANCE. 4+ bedrooms, 8 1/2 baths, media room with large stone fireplace, exercise room, formal dining and living rooms. Offered at \$2,975,000. mls #59141



IN TOWN - TRILLIUM PLACE. Walk to town. Stream off back of property line. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, excellent condition. Offered at \$319,000. mls #60822



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RIDGEWOODS. Attention all renovators, this lovely home features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths plus a 2 car garage. Great floor plan with a cathedral living room, great privacy and all paved road access. Offered at \$345,000. mls #59825



3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH YEAR ROUND UNIT is located within the city limits at Highlands Mountain Club. Completely renovated in 2003. Highlands Mountain Club offers tennis, swimming, clubhouse and walking trail. \$350,000. mls #59196

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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. Offered at \$825,000. mls #57259



LOCATED ON TALLEY ROAD, this 3 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath is in a quiet neighborhood close to town, this house features a two car garage, fireplace and is one of the few homes in Highlands with an enclosed outdoor swimming pool. Offered at \$695,000. mls #58784



GREAT MOUNTAIN GETAWAY. This unique property has lots of wormy chestnut wood, fireplace, sauna, wonderful sleeping porch and more. This 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath home is located on a 1+/- acre lot with a meadow feel off of Flat Mountain Road. Offered at \$385,000. mls #53871



HORSE COVE ESTATE. Own your own kingdom with this custom 4 bedroom, 5-1/2 bath custom home. Dream kitchen, family room, office. 3 car garage, screened porch with fireplace 11+ acres that backs to USFS lands. View of Blackrock Mountain. Offered at \$1,995,000. mls #59340



MIRROR LAKE ROAD. Great year-round or summer home features a nice yard and one car garage. Three bedrooms, three baths, cathedral ceiling in living room has wood floors. Nice office and loads of storage and an extra lot. A great walk to the lake location. Offered at \$474,000. mls #59746

COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES

Wright Square 828-526-2520 • www.ccphighlandsnc.com



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.



OPEN HOUSE
FRI. 1-4 p.m. & SAT. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

MANTLE RIDGE – Great value, priced below appraisal. Forested mountainside with breathtaking views of Short Off Mountain. Two master suites, great room, dining area, and gourmet kitchen. Home on two acres for \$699,000 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 lakefront 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.

Call Dan Chapman at 342-6640

Call Pam Taylor at 342-6988 or 526-9027

Call Rick Joiner at 200-9214 or 526-2592

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466 Dillard Road
Highlands, NC



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Bob Boyd - JWB Realty Services, LLC.

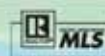
Office: (770) 622-3050 Cell: (404) 274-5200

3400 Rivergreen Court Suite 500 Duluth, Georgia 30096

220 School House Road

MLS#63535

\$1,375,000



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828-743-7999**

HISTORICAL IN-TOWN HOME in Cashiers built in 1875 which has been lovingly renovated. 7Bd/7.5Ba house plus duplex and 2 level garage. Perfect place and property for bed & breakfast, retail or large family.



Chris Gilbert

www.carolinamountainbrokers.com

Phone: (828)-526-5296 or (828)-421-3161



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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Highlands
is
unbeatable!

Jake
Heffington
takes control
of the ball at
the Oct. 8
home game
against
Murphy.
Highlands
won 4-1.
Wednesday,
Oct. 17
Highlands
beat Tallulah
Falls 5-1 at
home and
Thursday, Oct.
18, Highlands
beat Hayesville
in the fog at
home 7-3.
State play-offs
begin Wed.
Oct. 31, TBA.



Photo by Noel Atherton

Acorns

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European and American Antiques
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New Fall and Holiday items arriving daily
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Select Ladies Wear and Jewelry 25%-75% Off
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465 Main Street
Highlands. North Carolina

OWNED AND OPERATED BY OLD EDWARDS HOSPITALITY GROUP, LLC

... LOST BOY continued from page 23

About 2,000 children died that day. From the river, the boys and girls walked back down the Sudanese border to Kenya. Once in Kenya, they were the safest they had been in years, even though they still had very little to eat. Abraham was chosen in 2001 to come to the United States. That year, he learned through a friend while living in Florida that his mother was alive in a refugee camp in Ethiopia. His mother believed it was Abraham only after seeing photos of the gap between his front teeth. He believes this was an amazing miracle of God, because for 14 years, he considered himself an orphan. In 2005, Bryant and some friends from Wesleyan sent him to Ethiopia for a joyous reunion with his mom, three sisters and a brother. While he was in Highlands, Abraham spoke to people about his faith and his experiences and about what is happening still in Sudan, especially in the area of Sudan called Darfur. He spoke on Wednesday night at Community Bible Church (CBC) and met with youth and their leaders after his talk. "This was wonderful for our kids to hear the story of another part of the world," said Ryan Sprague, youth pastor at CBC. "It was priceless to get to talk to someone who has been through real life trials. His story gave perspective to our

lives. One child asked what they did for fun. Abraham replied there was no time or thought for fun because just surviving took all their energy. This was real food for thought for our Highlands youth." Abraham also spoke to a small group of homeschoolers on Thursday afternoon and a small group of men from Highlands at a lunch on Friday. Dr. John McKey said he enjoyed the spirit of Abraham and the boys for never giving up and trusting in the Lord. "That's a good lesson for all of us to follow," he said. Abraham's visit wasn't all work, however. He enjoyed a hike up Whiteside Mountain; He dressed up in cowboy regalia and got on a horse, so a picture could be sent back to his mom in Ethiopia; he played soccer with two of the Highlands rec league teams, U-13 and U-11 during which he impressed them with his ability to move the ball. Abraham thanks God for the trials in his life because they led him to Jesus and they give him an opportunity to share about God's power. His dream now is to become a physician and return to Sudan to serve his people. Several people have asked how to help Abraham's family in Ethiopia. For information on making a contribution, contact Dinah Davis at davis.dhd@mac.com or 828-526-3008.

... LETTERS continued from page 19

quicksands." As we can see, in order for the Bible to retain cohesiveness it must be accepted in its entirety.

I couldn't help but notice that what the Bible actually says was not considered in the letter. Charles Colson sums up the Bible's view when he says, "Only Scripture gives us a properly high view of nature without sacrificing a high view of human life. Genesis teaches that we are created in God's image, and we alone are charged with the supreme responsibility of caring for the rest of God's creation. We're told to be stewards, to care for the Earth and its inhabitants, and not to treat them carelessly or selfishly." While it can be argued that the Church as a whole has dropped the ball on this issue, its teachings of creation and stewardship are a much better alternative to being classified as "hairless apes" as Katie has done.

Katie then goes on to say that, "perhaps a big part of the reason we are trashing the Earth is exactly because we think we are separate from Nature." Again, I quote Colson when he argues that, "Granted, Western culture has plundered the world. But that didn't come from Christianity, it came from humanism. As Western culture rejected the Bible's view of creation, a new image of humanity emerged: Man was no longer regarded as God's servant but as the pinnacle of evolution, the victor in the Darwinian struggle for existence." He goes on to say, "the antidote to western arrogance is not" a religion, or worldview that "puts on the same level as the trees and the grass. That's where our environmental problems came from in the first place. But it's an obvious fact that humans do have unique powers no other organism has. The only religion that can solve our ecological problems is one that acknowledges our uniqueness to direct our unique capabilities."

Let's pretend for a moment that we are on the same level as the rest of creation. We would have some important decisions to make, as freelance writer Regis Nicoll so sarcastically points out. If man and animals are equal, "are zoo officials prosecutable for operating internment camps? Are livestock owners part of a modern day slave trade? What about pet owners? How should liberated animals be assimilated into society? Will reparations be in order? What about laws governing marriage, citizenship and affirmative action? Will we need provisions for 'No Chimp Left Behind'? And what happens if our simian friends behave badly - are they morally accountable for their actions?"

When wrestling with monumental issues like the origin of man, the Christian or the atheist are usually the ones charged with giving an explanation. However, if evolution is to be taken seriously it also must give an answer. So does evolution have the explanatory power that is so often given it?

Allan Dobras, another freelancer, gives us an idea when he writes: "In the beginning, existence emerged from non-existence by a process cloaked in mystery. Out of nothing, came something... by a process cloaked in mystery. This something became matter... by a process cloaked in mystery. For some unknown reason, this matter became unstable and exploded sending particles rushing off into the nothingness of space. In an infinitesimal moment, space, time, and all physical laws were created... by a process cloaked in mystery. The force of the explosion was the precise magnitude required - within one part in a billion - to allow galaxies to form and thereby facilitating the formation of planets. Within one particular galaxy, a solar system was formed... by a process cloaked in mystery. Within this solar system, one planet was formed with such profound delicacy, that it

•See LETTERS page 42

• 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.

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. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871
Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.

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

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

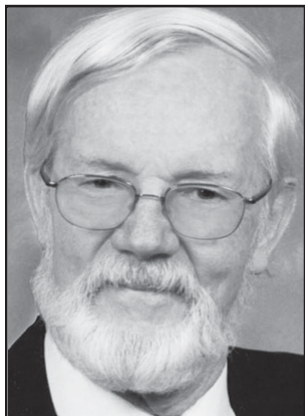
Lay Led Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

Sundays: Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Question #5: As a new commissioner you will be involved in the development of Pine Street Park, the Greenway, infrastructure extension and the Town Hall complex. What is your stance on these issues?



Larry Brannan

• **Brannon:**

First, I want to express my appreciation to the people who spend considerable time and effort to create and manage projects such as the Greenway and Pine Street Park. They work hard and are subject to a lot of criticism while trying to make Highlands better for all of us. I admire their perseverance and fortitude.

My response in the previous issue of this newspaper included suggestions about coordinated, multi-year plans for guiding the growth of Highlands and the changes that will occur.

Each of the subject issues can be planned and executed individually. However, it seems prudent to approach each with a view to our long term concept of what we want Highlands to be. In each case, the needs and wants of all our community need to be heard and considered. This newspaper and the town board meetings provide excellent forums for anyone or group to express a particular viewpoint.

I see the role of Commissioner as that of a representative for all of the people of Highlands. The consensus of the majority of the people should be given much more consideration than the personal

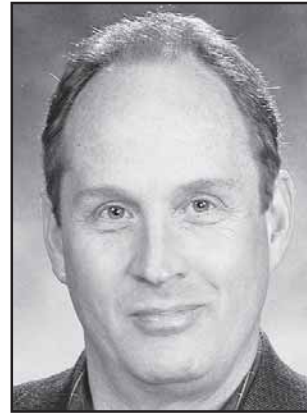


Dennis DeWolf

views of a commissioner. In order to be elected to the town board, I need to convince the 888 registered voters in Highlands that I will respect and support their interests and viewpoints. My current neighbors on Satulah Mountain are of families that have been part of Highlands since 1900. I will soon have more neighbors, most of whom will be new to Highlands. Some of the owners of local businesses are registered to vote somewhere other than Highlands. They will own property and pay taxes – and be concerned about what happens in and to our town, but not have a vote! As a Commissioner, I will be obligated to protect the rights and interests of all these people of Highlands. Also, it should be remembered that what we do in Highlands affects job and work opportunities for people from Clayton to Sylva.

When there are strong divergent opinions, such as with Pine Street Park, a compromise should be sought that provides at least some of what each group wants. Once again, the benefit of the majority and the long term consequences should be given careful consideration.

In each case, we have only one opportunity to



John "Buz" Dotson

get it right.

Each town board meeting begins with a period for comment from the public. I would suggest that for the significant projects that have long term consequences, a special town board meeting should be held. All people representing all the interests of the Highlands area should be encouraged to attend. The meeting could be advertised in the local newspapers and on local radio. The concept of the project could be presented for explanation and comment.

If you would like to read or reread my personal information and/or my viewpoints on subjects previously published in this newspaper, please see my web page at internet address http://mysite.verizon.net/resrw81k/larry_town_commissioner/

• **DeWolf:**

Pine Street Park used to be the most popular gathering place in Highlands for years when it was the site of the town post office. It was a destination for gathering your mail but equally important it was the place to catch up on the latest town news, meet someone new or see a good friend. Because of its location many people walked from businesses and enjoyed the opportu-



Gary Drake

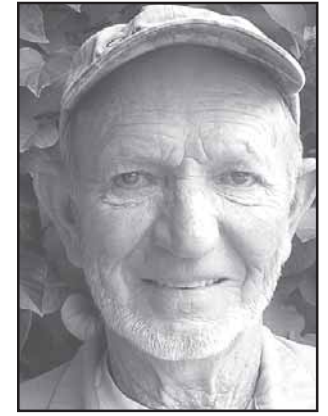
nity to be with people. It was an important destination and an important part of the social fabric of the community. Over time, because the site on Pine Street seemed to lend itself to occasional closure for street dances and Macon Bank decided to build a small gazebo on their property across the street for bands there began, again to be a sense of place for gathering. Then it evolved into the Christmas tree lighting area with choir signing and the like. As part of the development of their property the same bank decided to create and maintain the lower portion of their property as a small amphitheater which could help serve the future needs of visionaries who were beginning to define alternate plans for its permanent place in the downtown. I personally feel that the site should lend itself to small events and everyday leisure – for people have a tendency to return to places of an event in their memory and are drawn back to recall it and in the process discover it is just plain fun coming to sit and relax. As fate would have it, stimulated conversation and arguments about various designs, more particularly in reference to the street closure and parking issues, resulted in a vote by Town board



Alan Marsh

not to close it. Although that action had its way of reducing the momentum of further planning I'm confident that solutions will be found and it will within a relatively short period of time evolve into a significant gathering place again in Highlands as it should.

As it is with Pine Street Park the Greenway program, as initiated by a small group of highly motivated people (for which we should be thankful), will no doubt be a very important asset to our community, the positive impact of which we will not fully appreciate except through the evolution of planning, testing and replanning over time. We will no doubt be confronted with controversial issues surrounding the creation of this grand plan. Some will question its appropriateness or amount of usage and by whom. As it often happens human instinct will create mental roadblocks that have a way of sidetracking a vision and not giving that vision a chance to be developed to a point of recognition, understanding and appreciation. Those instincts need to be debated, trashed out and reconciled for the sake of the importance this appropriate asset to our town. There are so many opportunities



Larry Rogers

within this plan to increase awareness of our surroundings from nature to Highlands' history and a bolstering of conscience as to the caring of it all.

The Town Hall complex is a great opportunity to produce a much needed center for governmental administration, police facilities, public bathrooms and other community needs that have been discussed and introduced into the program of design. It's appropriate for the complex to find itself on a historical site of the old Highlands School in the midst of downtown within viewing/walking distance of Pine Street Park, with potential connection to the Greenway and Recreation Park/Civic Center via that route, to and from the central shopping district, restaurants, lodging, service businesses and surrounding entertainment facilities. As a hub of our local government workplace it also represents the gathering place for civic participation in the process of decision making and expression.

• **Dotson:**

Let me address the issues in reverse. Regarding the proposed, new Town Hall complex, I lean towards being fiscally responsible with taxpayer money. While the existing

• See Q&A page 31

... Q&A continued from page 30

Town Hall building is aging and has more than its share of problems, I believe a more conservative plan should be considered along with the one currently being floated. I suspect that proposed construction costs will be quite higher than anticipated based on site preparation.

The expansion of our sewer infrastructure needs to coincide with the original reason for the current waste treatment facility, which was primarily to get homes around our lakes hooked up to sewer, thus helping to clean up Mirror Lake and Lake Sequoyah. Over the years the town has gone so far as to annex in new developments and provide sewer service rather than pursue its original stated goals of eliminating failing septic systems and straight piping into our lakes and water sources. We need to take another creative look at getting homes in our lake areas on town sewer.

The Greenway is an idea which is very commendable, but possibly money unwisely spent. For years we have had a "walking trail" from the Mirror Lake area across Town property through the woods to the Recreation Park. The last time I was on the trail it had fallen into disrepair because of lack of use and, I would suspect, lack of interest. With thousands of acres surrounding us, and miles of trails one need look no further than the Botanical Garden for a respite in the woods. Property rights, setbacks, lots sizes and the master sidewalk plan will need to be considered.

The proposed Pine Street Park has been an undertaking of civic-minded individuals who are interested in keeping more accessible green space in the downtown area. I applaud the idea but feel a need for much discussion and work between the town and the committee involved prior to finalization. I do not support the permanent closing of Pine Street.

• Drake:

Pine Street Park: I see a need for something of this nature in the town. But not sure this was the correct spot for it. The board has made the correct decision by keeping Pine Street open to traffic. When a decision is made by the board, residents and businesses have to be taken into consideration.

New Town Hall Building: I know the city government needs more space, but I am not convinced such a large expansion is necessary. I would definitely like to know more, I feel more information should be given out to the public before voting in favor of such an expansion.

Greenway infrastructure: After attending the Town Board meeting on October 3, 2007 and seeing the presentation on the first phase of this subject, I'm a little more educated but still not convinced this is a good use of our tax monies. Not against the first phase especially since it includes the school and educational out-

door classes. After the completion of this phase the Board needs to see the usage before any more tax monies are spent. People have asked me with all the nature trails and hundreds of acres of National Forest available for hiking why we need a walk-way around town. A good question which needs an answer before the town spends more than the \$100,000 already allocated.

• Marsh:

I will continue to work for the completion of Pine Street Park. I am in favor of the Greenway Trail, but we should remember that the county pays for all costs of The Greenway in Franklin. I believe they should fund the Greenway in Highlands, too. Our Town Hall is too small. I plan to help the Town Board in finding a remedy. Either building a new Town Hall in the future or adding to our present building.

• Rogers:

As a new commissioner, I feel that each issue needs to be addressed individually, one at a time.

I would like to advance the progress being made by the town in the upgrade of infrastructure, so it will be quick and cost effective. If we can master the process of a thriving infrastructure, then we will be able to support further growth in Highlands.

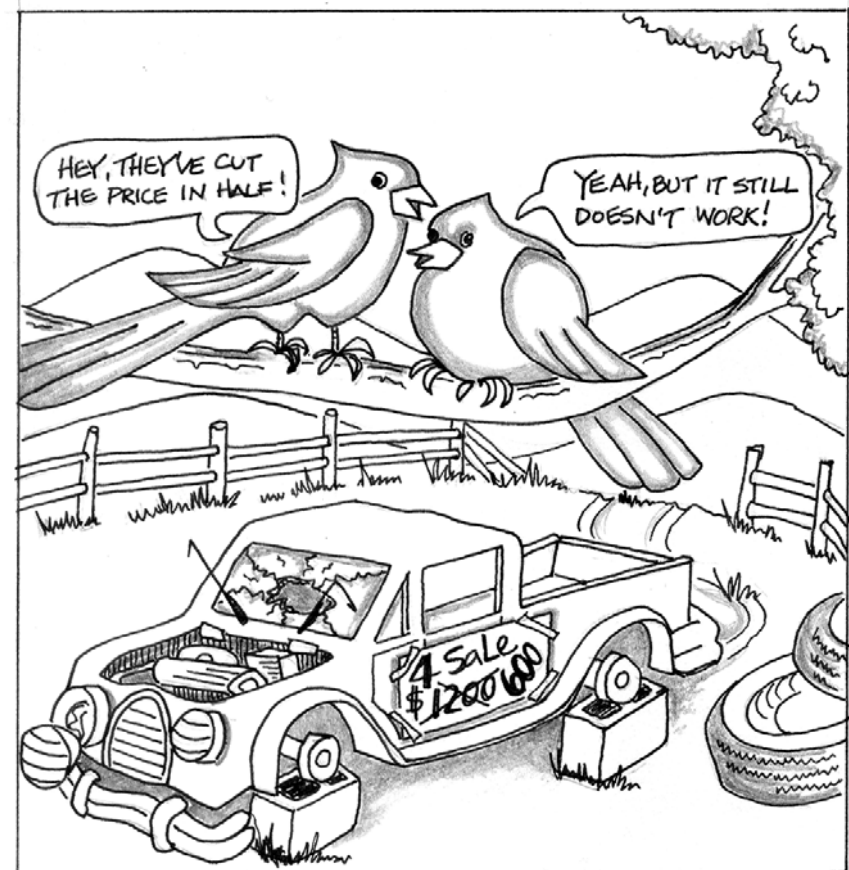
It seems to me that there could be a more suitable location planned for the new Town Hall Complex that might save money in excavating costs. Since there could be a potential for growth in the Town Hall, we need to be sure that we take this into consideration with the building layout and design. In my line of business, I always say, "if we're going to do this, we're going to do it the right way first."

We need a definite policy constructed, for the use of the Pine Street Park, to make sure that fairness to everyone is taken into consideration. The town also needs to be careful that they do not become too financially involved in a variety of things that are not income producing to them.

In order to accomplish these goals, we need a person, such as myself, that will make sure that our taxpayer money is being spent wisely and will be a protector of our individual rights as well.

**Election Day is
Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2007.
Highlands polling place is
at the
Highlands Civic Center.
Polls open at 6:30 a.m.
and close at 7:30 p.m.**

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Re-Elect Commissioner Alan Marsh

I have had a home in Highlands for 38 years. I am the only senior citizen on the Town Board and have attended Town Board and Planning Board meetings for 25 years. I have the time and experience to continue being an effective commissioner. I am a board member of the Highlands Historical Society, a board member of the Highlands Land Trust, a Trustee of the Highlands Methodist Church, a member of the Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association, Highlands Audubon Society and the Rotary Club of Highlands.

In the last 8 years, before I was elected to the Town Board, I served on the town's Land Use Plan Committee and the Planning Board. I am now serving my 4th year on the Macon County Planning Board.

I want to be re-elected so I can continue the projects that the board has started such as:

Storm Water Control. The town just received the new sate flood plain maps which show that parts of the town are in the flood plain. The town asked McGill Engineering to develop a Master Storm Water Control Plan for Highlands. McGill estimates the cost to be up to \$12 million. We need to start on this as soon as possible with money from the Clean Water Trust Fund.

Harris Lake Sewer Project. We have budgeted more than \$1 million to complete this project.

Sidewalks in residential areas. We did complete the sidewalk on 5th from Main to Chestnut streets. Very soon Chestnut will be repaved and sidewalks added. Sidewalks are one of my pet projects.

I believe density is a big concern to the town. If the population doubles, will we have enough water to take care of everyone? If droughts continue, will we be able to supply water to our present population?

Re-elect Alan Marsh to the Town Board

Paid for my Alan Marsh

Highlands First Presbyterian Church
and The Music Department of Western Carolina University
present

A Faculty Showcase Concert featuring



Adnrew Adams, Piano Shannon Thompson, Clarinet

Ian Jeffress, Alto Saxophone

Sunday, Oct. 28 at 4 p.m.

No Admission

First Presbyterian Church • Main Street, Highlands, NC

... GREENWAY continued from page 1

what will be affected by the proposed ordinance additions.

"At this time, the map strictly shows the path through town property," said Greenway Committee Chairman Hillary Quin.

Brian Levo, one of the student interns from the University of North Carolina's Institute for the Environment currently working in Highlands, presented amendments to the town's ordinance to accommodate the Greenway Trail.

The only way the Greenway Trail will work is if residents and owners of commercial property agree to allow the trail to cross their property. If they do, then a swath to accommodate the trail will be dedicated to the town and property owners must abide by the proposed Greenway Trail ordinances.

"If they don't agree to the trail on their property, then the trail will stop and pick up where the next property owner agrees to it," said Planning Board member Pat Taylor.

The board agreed to four out of five proposed greenway ordinances, but got stuck on the width of the trail. The ordinance called for a 50-foot strip which would include a 10-foot trail with a 20-foot buffer on each side.

"Fifty feet is a lot of property especially if the property is 800 feet long," said member Ricky Bryson. "U.S. 64 is 50 feet from ditch to ditch and that's for U.S. highway."

He said since the trail is just for pedestrians a 30-foot "may even be too much."

But Planning Board Vice Chair Ginger Slaughter was under the impression that Highlands was using the town of Davidson's Greenway Trail as a role model.

"Is this what Davidson is doing?" she asked.

Levo said there is no actual standard for a Greenway Trail width. "This is something the Greenway Committee came up with."

Davidson, N.C., is a bedroom community of Charlotte, N.C., just off U.S. 74 and home to Davidson College.

Taylor suggested changing the language pertaining to the trail width to 25-50 feet as necessary to protect the environment. The board agreed unanimously to do that but the exact language will be presented at the next Planning Board meeting.

Concerning commercial property on which the trail will cross, members said the trail can be used as a bargaining chip with developers.

For instance, with the Greenway Trail as part of a developer's plan, lot size built-upon exceptions and setback exceptions could be made.

However, once property owners agree to the trail on their property and dedicate that portion of their property to the town, they can't ever build in that vicinity — though they can build right up to the buffer.

However, there will always be a 20-foot buffer between the trail and any perennial

stream and the trail will likely be 10 feet wide barring environmental obstacles.

"No new development is allowed in the buffer except for water dependent structures and public crossings such as roads and greenways where no practical alternative exists," reads the proposed greenway ordinance pertaining to buffers.

The Town Board will have the final word on the proposed Greenway ordinances.

In other business, the board agreed to amend the zoning ordinance as it pertains to the new perennial stream map recently acquired by the town.

Over the years, town officials and citizens have realized that the U.S.G.S. map of perennial streams is flawed because it doesn't depict streams that run year-round in Highlands. When a stream isn't labeled perennial, it isn't subject to protection or setback regulations pertaining to development.

At Monday night's meeting, the board voted unanimously to accept the new perennial stream map and the ordinance protecting them.

"Perennial streams shall be defined as a well-defined channel that contains water year-round during a year of normal rainfall with the aquatic bed located below the water table for most of the year. Groundwater is the primary source of water for a perennial stream, but it also carries stormwater runoff. A perennial stream exhibits the typical biological, hydrological, and physical characteristics commonly associated with the continuous conveyance of water."

If the Town Board agrees to the Planning Board's recommendation, the new list of perennial streams will be included on the town's zoning map and development in their vicinity will be regulated by the ordinance.

— Jim Lewicki

Get flu shots Nov. 3 in Highlands

On Saturday, Nov. 3, the Macon County Public Health Center will be giving flu shots at the Highlands Civic Center from 9 a.m. to noon.

Individuals unable to wait in line may have someone wait in line for them and a nurse will take vaccine to their vehicle.

The vaccination clinics are 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.

The cost for the vaccine is \$25. The health center will bill Medicare and Medicaid replacements, BCBS, and Cresnet, so bring your card for these.

*Free vaccine for high-risk people will be given at a later date.

For more information about flu clinics, call the Macon County Public Health Center at 349-2081.

• REVIEWS •

'Raindrop Waltz' is endearing dance through time

Playwright Gary Carden's prelude to "Raindrop Waltz" is reason enough to see the Highlands Community Players production now on stage at the Performing Arts Center.

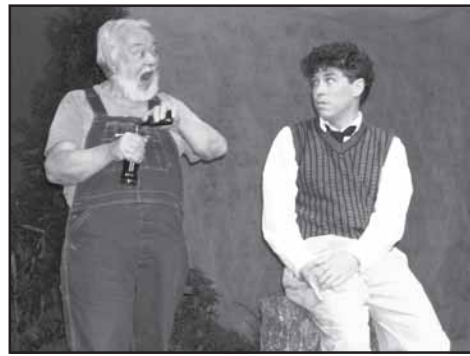
As a master storyteller Carden introduces the audience to the Sylva, NC of old and some of its characters, he artfully prepares viewers for what is to come – an autobiographical sketch about Carden's childhood and life as a young adult.

Anyone who has roots in Appalachia whether it be Sylva, Highlands or like places in Tennessee or Kentucky, will be touched by the story about changing times and lifestyles in the mountains.

The set has a magical quality complete with a log cabin and a backdrop of misty, purple mountains.

Sue Manning who plays Agnes Teester, the character most affected by time and life, does an excellent job coining phrases and dialect unique to Appalachia.

Colin Long plays Jody Lee Teester, presumably Carden, who is raised by his grandmother Agnes Teester, more of a mother than a grandmother. With much acting under his belt, Long is easy and casual on stage.



Old town drunk Manard Potts, played by playwright Gary Carden, tells Jody Lee (Colin Long) some unknown facts about his father.

Ron Leslie, as Ardel Teester, Jody's uncle, and Sue Feldkamp, as Ardel's wife Snookie Teester, embody the mountain folk of the 1980s who are ready for a different less rigorous life than their ancestors.

Gary Carden plays Manard Potts, the town drunk who imparts important information to Jody about his father and Dean Zuch as Little Doc Nichols, Jessica Bryant as Frankie Jean Teester and Dawson Bryant as Jody Lee as a child, all do a great job adding layers to the story that draws the audience in and holds tight.

The "Raindrop Waltz." The play continues this week at PAC, Thursday-Sunday, Oct. 25-28. Call 526-8084 for reservations.

– **Kim Lewicki**

ITC's 'Stand-up' comedy is just plain fun



Al Ernst with Gid Pool, Jamie Bendall and Benny Skyn.

No one can complain about nothing to do in Highlands these days, not with the Instant Theatre Company's comedy festival in its studio on Main Street Thursday through Saturday.

Al Ernst, King of Carnival Comedy Cruisers, has his Laugh Pack at the theater doing "stand-up" comedy and it's really fun.

Sure, you can drive to Atlanta or Asheville to see such a show. But why bother? The real thing is right here in Highlands at 8 p.m. at ITC.

Obviously some performers are better than others, but that's how it works with stand-up comedy. You just never know how it's going to go. But if this weekend is anything like last, it'll be worth the ticket price.

No two shows are the same, so it's hard to review what folks will see, but Al Ernst will orchestrate funny men Greg Ray, Mark

Evans Jamie Bendall, Eric Hunter and Sonja King throughout the weekend.

Greg Ray also known as "Dr. Babylon" authored "Men are from Mars, because women killed the ones on Venus" and he will talk about it all – men, women, politics, logic, relationships, the works.

Mark Evans' skit will skirt around being southern not stupid; Jamie Bendall who owns the comedy club The Punch Line in Atlanta and "dead pan housewife" Sonja King will all delight.

Between acts and sometime during, the audience is entertained by comedic musician Benny Skyn whose performance could stand alone.

Comedy seminars for adults and children are also on during the day on Saturday. Night performances begin at 8 p.m. Call 828-342-9197 for tickets and to sign up for comedy classes.

– **Kim Lewicki**

Highlands School Beta Club inducts new members



On Oct. 23 at 6:30 p.m., current members of the Highlands School Beta Club inducted new members for the 2007-2008 school year.

Current Beta members Andrew Billingsley, Jessica Dryman, Will Edwards, Jake Heffington, Carolyn Hornsby, Brice Jenkins, Casey Jenkins, Shelby Johnson, Kyle Lassiter, Luke McClellan, Matt McClellan, Beverly Nix, Michael Nix, Kate-Marie Parks, Katie Pierce, Marisol Ruiz, Taylor Stinson and Sally Wheeler welcomed inductees Clayton Lassiter, Marlee McCall, Amy Fogle, Katie Durham, Alex Hedden, Griselda Sanchez, Greg Porter, Bevan Schiffli and Samuel Wheeler. The candle lighting ceremony began with a call to order by Sally Wheeler; the pledge led by Taylor Stinson; the presentation of certificates and pins by Katie Pierce, followed by the lighting of four candles signifying inspiration, achievement, character and leadership.

Photo by Stephanie McCall



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CAROLINA



HS Fall Festival epitomizes family fun



Highlands School annual Fall Festival is the school's biggest fundraiser. This year's festival is set for Saturday, Oct. 27 from 5-9 p.m. at the school in the old gym.

Katie Ingram gets her face painted.

Photos by Kim Lewicki

Face painting, castle bouncing, hay rides, ring toss, dunking booth, and a haunted house are just a few of the fun and games scheduled for the night.

Ethan and Eliza Tate frolic in the castle bounce.





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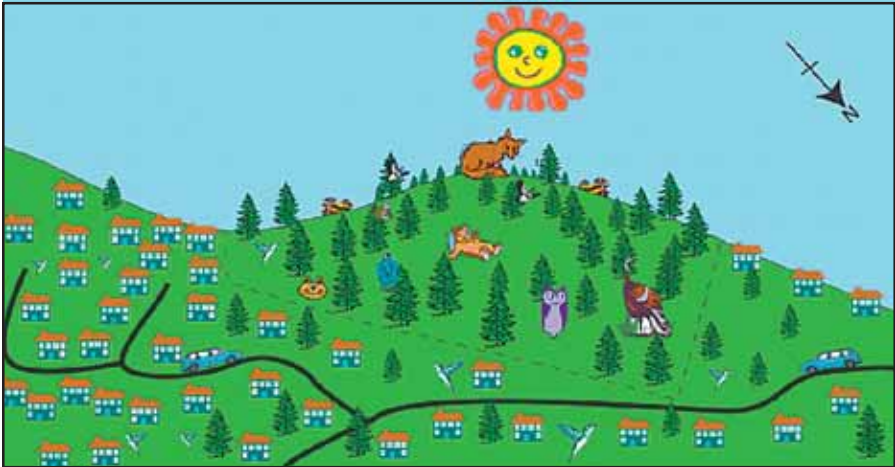
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• STATE & FEDERAL POLITICS •

Health coverage for America's children tops 'need' list

By Congressman Heath Shuler

Last week saw several important pieces of legislation come to the floor of the House of Representatives.

At the top of this list was the vote on overriding President' Bush's veto of the State Children Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) reauthorization.

Our Nation currently has over 9 million children living without the basic health care coverage they need to grow up healthy. That is unacceptable to me.

Over the past several weeks a large majority of members in both the House and Senate have worked responsibly and diligently to ensure that American children are able to see a doctor when they are sick. We crossed party lines and looked past our differences to do what was right for our children.

However, rather than joining with us in this effort the President and a minority in the House obstructed our progress.

While we were debating the renewal of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) in the House, the President and his supporters trotted out a series of mistruths and distortions about the legislation.

As the President vetoed the bipartisan legislation that reached his desk, he and his supporters steadfastly stuck to those mistruths.

They claimed that the bill would expand SCHIP to allow families with incomes of up to \$83,000 a year would qualify.

That is simply wrong. The bill did not raise the eligibility level for CHIP. If the compromise bill had been signed into law, no child in a family with an income of \$83,000 would have been eligible for CHIP unless it was approved by the President and his administration.

They claimed that the bill did not care for the poor children SCHIP was intended to cover.

The truth is that the bill actually focused policies and incentives exclusively on targeting low-income children. The bill established a new financial incentive for states to enroll children below 200 percent of poverty. The bill also provided bonuses to states for enrollment of eligible but uninsured Medicaid children. These are the poorest of the poor, and the bill did more to help them than any other children.

They claimed that the bill would have allowed illegal immigrants to get SCHIP benefits.

This is also untrue. Illegal immigrants have never been eligible for SCHIP. Section 605 of the bill clearly stated the following: "Nothing in this Act allows Federal payment for individuals who are not legal residents." The bill also would have improved on current law, requiring for the first time that CHIP programs establish beneficiaries' citizenship to enroll.

And they claimed that the bill would

pay for adults to be enrolled in SCHIP.

However the truth is that the bill phased out the coverage of adults over two years — only optional coverage of pregnant women remained.

The SCHIP reauthorization was a strong bipartisan effort to provide 10 million American children the health care they need to grow up healthy. It was unfortunate that a minority in the House prevented us from proving that care.

Needing a two-thirds majority to override the veto, the motion failed 273-156.

While disappointed with the outcome on the SCHIP legislation, the House did pass several other good pieces of legislation.

We passed H.R. 3678, the Four-Year Extension of the Internet Tax Moratorium, with overwhelming bipartisan support, 405-2.

The legislation will keep Internet access free from state and local taxes for the next four years. The Internet access tax moratorium, which was first enacted in 1998 and extended in 2001 and 2004, was set to expire on November 1st.

As we work to bring broadband Internet to every community in the mountains, we must also ensure that Internet access remains tax free and affordable. I was proud to support this tax moratorium on the House floor, and I will continue working to keep taxes low and expand broadband access across Western North Carolina.

The previous extensions of the Internet tax moratoriums had allowed for specific and needed adjustments within the moratoriums provisions. With this four-year extension Congress will be able to determine if further adjustments are required.

The Internet Tax Moratorium was sup-

ported by the National Governors Association, the Federal Tax Administration, and the National Conference of State Legislatures.

The House also passed H.R. 2102, the Free Flow of Information Act, with Democratic and Republican support, 398-21. This bill would provide journalists with a qualified privilege to protect their sources, while at the same time, recognizing the public interest in effective law enforcement and strong national security.

H.R. 2102 establishes important federal ground rules for all parties — prosecutors, civil litigants, journalists and sources — and sends a signal to confidential sources that they will be protected in most circumstances to bring forward to news organizations public evidence of waste, fraud and abuse in government and in the private sector. Additionally, the bill contains provisions to ensure that the privilege would not impair law enforcement's efforts to prevent acts of terrorism, threats to national security, and death or bodily harm to members of the public.

The last major bill we passed was H.R. 2095, the Federal Railroad Safety Improvement Act of 2007, which passed 377-38.

H.R. 2095 requires the Secretary of Transportation to develop a long-term strategy for improving rail safety to reduce the number and rates of accidents, injuries, and fatalities involving railroads.

The bill also requires the railroads to establish and maintain a toll-free telephone number for reporting malfunctions of grade crossing signals, gates, and other devices and disabled vehicles blocking railroad tracks.

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



Western Carolina Music Department Faculty Showcase performance at the First Presbyterian Church Sunday, Oct. 28 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 reception following.

• BUSINESS NEWS •

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ALL ARE WELCOME!

Thomas Rain Crowe, Elizabeth Musser among five authors at Cyrano's this weekend

True-crime author Rozetta Mowery, novelist Elizabeth Musser, poet, naturalist and translator Thomas Rain Crowe, Coach Tony Dungy's co-author Nathan Whitaker and local artist Karen Weihs will all be meeting readers and autographing their books at Cyrano's Bookshop this Friday and Saturday, Oct. 26 and 27.

From 3 to 5 p.m. Friday afternoon, Rozetta Mowery signs her family memoir, "Tragedy in Tin Can Holler," which recounts Mowery's investigation of her mother's murder in Appalachia. (Tin Can Holler was the name of the poor neighborhood where the author's family lived in Athens, TN.) It's no secret who killed Eliza Mae Mowery, it was her own husband — Rozetta's father — Seig Mowery. But as Ms. Mowery delved into her family's history she uncovered information about her paternal grandmother Grace Sims that was even more shocking.

The author learned that Grace Sims was herself a serial killer, doing away not just with her own unwanted, illegitimate babies during the Great Depression, but luring mail-order husbands to her farm and then killing them for whatever cash they had on hand.

Novelist Elizabeth Musser will sign her works from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday. The popular author of the best-selling "The Swan House" (named one of the top Christian books of 2001) and "The Dwelling Place," Musser is a native of Atlanta who now lives in France, where — after graduating from Vanderbilt University — she moved to become a missionary. And indeed her latest novel, "Searching for Eternity," spans those two worlds: Following his father's dubious disappearance, adolescent Emile de Bonnelly is forced to leave his native France for Atlanta, GA, never suspecting what awaits him in the South of 1964 — culture shock, racism, and friendship with a strange girl named Eternity Jones. Emile and Eternity find themselves on a journey through abuse, betrayal and prejudice which will ultimately lead them into a spiritual quest for healing. Musser's novels are perennial bestsellers at Cyrano's.

The author of "Zoro's Field," Thomas Rain Crowe also lived in France as well as San Francisco, where he was one of the

"Baby Beat" poets; now he calls Tuckaseegee (in Jackson County) home. He will be signing his new short-story and poetry collections on Saturday afternoon, Oct. 27, from 1 to 3 p.m. The acclaimed "Zoro's Field: My Life in the



Author Thomas Rain Crowe

Appalachian Woods" was a sort of Blue Ridge "Walden," recounting Crowe's years living off the land in Polk County. Now Crowe has three new books, just published this month: "A House of Girls" is a collection of linked, coming-of-age stories, meant to evoke the *Bildungsroman* (learning through experience) tradition of Goethe and Thomas Mann.

"Radiogenesis" is Crowe's first major collection of poetry published here in the U.S. in 15 years, his seminal work that "engages life in all its political, economic, and spiritual diversity," writes poet Jim Wayne Miller. "Radiogenesis" has an introduction by Poet Laureate of San Francisco Jack Hirschman who compares this collection favorably with the work of Dylan Thomas and Arthur Rimbaud.

"The Book of Rocks" is a chapbook collection of poems comprised of Crowe's favorite spiritual and metaphysical words written in the poetic style of the *anagram*. "Crowe's poems are able to grasp the Zen of the moment. Quite an achievement," says Florida author Bill Belleville.

Nathan Whitaker (3 to 5 p.m., Saturday) is Tony Dungy's co-author in "Quiet Strength: The Principles, Practices & Priorities of a Winning Life." Whitaker played baseball and football at Duke University, graduated from Harvard Law School, worked in administration for the Jacksonville Jaguars and Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and in the ministry. So he was the perfect person to work with Tony

Dungy. Dungy's Indianapolis Colts won the Super Bowl this past February, making him one of only three people to win the NFL championship both as a player and a head coach, not to mention the first ever African-American coach to win a Super Bowl.

But as Dungy says in the introduction to "Quiet Strength:" "The point of this book is not the Super Bowl. In fact, it's not football....Don't get me wrong — football is great....But football is just a game. It's not a family. It's not a way of life." Of course his book is full of football, with fascinating insights on Dungy's years calling plays, but it's also about family, friends and God. Only Dungy's Christian faith helped him cope with the suicide of his teenage son a couple of years ago. (He and his wife Lauren are the

parents of six children, some of them adopted).

Artist Karen Weihs will sign copies of "Out of My Mind: A Visual Artist Shares Her Creative Journey" between 5 and 7 p.m. Saturday evening. Weihs is a noted Charleston artist with a home and studio in Cashiers; she exhibits in both the mountains and low country and a group of her works is currently on view at the Grove Arcade in Asheville. In "Out of My Mind," the artist offers a simple way of understanding a limited palette of oils with an organized method for success. The book gives the reader life lessons, business advice and a personal journey for anyone in a creative quest. Weihs writes, "Maybe you have a creative spirit, but you have had to suppress it because of life's demands, or maybe you feel you have lost it completely.... If you open up your mind, your spirit will again be free to accept new goals, develop skills and enable your intuition to help guide you toward more creative behavior. Creativity needs cultivating, serenity and a support system." More than a self-help book, "Out of My Mind" has beautiful reproductions of Weihs's artwork.

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.

Alvarez joins morning club



Rotarians Jan V. Healey, Marlene Alvarez and Mountaintop Rotary Vice President Dixie Barton

Highlands Mountaintop Rotary recently welcomed new member Marlene Alvarez. Marlene is the managing partner of ...on the Verandah Restaurant in Highlands and is also involved in Leadership Highlands, the Big Brothers Big Sisters advisory council and the Bascom-Louise Gallery Wine Festival and Art Auction Steering Committee. She also serves as treasurer and chair elect on the board of directors of the Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center. Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets every Wednesday at the Highlands Conference Center at 7:30 am. Visitors are welcome.

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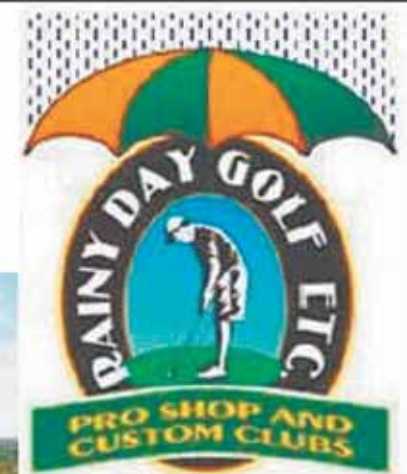
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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

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, Fri-

day 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.

- 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 join-

ing 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

2nd week of 'Comedy Festival' at Instant Theater, Fri. & Sat.

Mention this article to the box office for a \$5 discount per ticket.

Comedy fans have two more opportunities to experience what the fabulous, twinkly-eyed, nationally and internationally touring Stand-Up comedian Al Ernst and his "Laugh Pack" of funny people is all about.

Last week-end at the opening of the first Instant Theatre Comedy Festival fun seekers found their haven of euphoria. More laughs than the recommended daily requirement echoed through out the Studio last Friday and Saturday, Friday, Oct. 26 and Saturday, Oct. 27 at 8 p.m. Al will host The Eman Nation which consists of some of the nations top touring Stand-Up comedians and Highlands new song writing sensation, Benny Skyn, "The Music Dude."

Al Ernst brings to our little mountain town his gift of humor and of sharing with us his having a good time with his own life. He has been crowned the King of the Carnival Comedy Cruises and holds his subjects in grips of laughter and glee. The Eman brings with him on Friday night, the return of impressionist Jim Gossett, Sonja King, the dead pan housewife, winner of the Carnival Comedy Challenge and

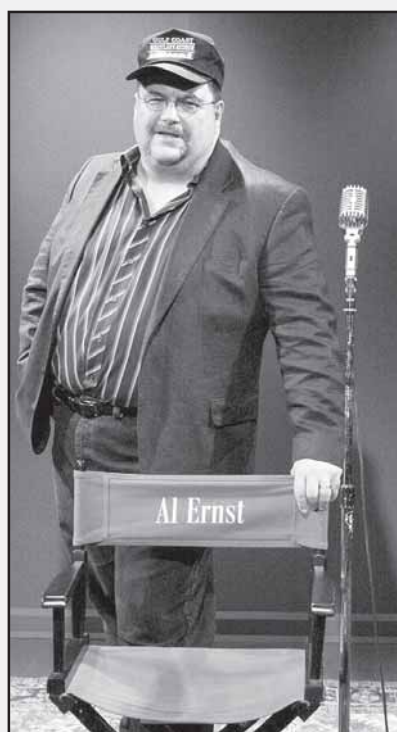
Mark Evans straight from his Las Vegas "Southern not Stupid" tour. Joining Al, Benny, Jim, Mark and Sonya Friday night will be the Stand Up therapist Dr Babylon (Greg Ray) author of the book "Men are from Mars, because the women on Venus killed theirs."

Saturday Al offers a class in "What's Funny" for children from 10 a.m. to noon and for adults from 1-3 p.m. Reservations are a must and the seminars are limited to 12 - best to sign up early.

"The Last Laugh" starting at 8 p.m. will be hosted by Mark Evans with Benny Skyn. Joining Mark for the last show of the festival will be Sonya, Dr. Babylon and comedian Jamie Bendall, co-owner of one the best known comedy clubs in the area, "The Punch Line" in Atlanta. Wrapping up the evening of hilarity will be the EMAN himself Al

Ernst and his view from the cheap seats.

Don't miss your chance to experience the joy of the EMAN Nation at the Instant Theatre Comedy Festival by calling 828-342-9197 for reservations. Mention this article to the box office for a \$5 discount



Funny man Al Ernst

'The Raindrop Waltz' continues this week at PAC



Opening last week to a standing ovation, this touching play set in the southern Appalachian Mountains continues this week at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street in Highlands, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, October 25-27, at 7:30 p.m., with a Sunday matinee at 2:30 p.m.

The Highlands Community Players' production is introduced by the playwright Gary Carden, a master storyteller, who explains the autobiographical nature of the play and tells a wonderfully humorous story of his boyhood in his native town of Sylva, North Carolina.

The story of the play itself concerns a mountain woman, 82-year-old Agnes Teester, who is faced with the unwelcome necessity of leaving her home of many years. A beautiful set designed by Kathy Evans provides the several locations needed in telling Agnes's story, which is narrated by her grandson Jody Lee. Although the story is touched with some sadness, it is told with love and humor

and speaks to a situation that many have faced or may face in the future.

The feisty Grandmother Agnes is played brilliantly and authentically by Sue Manning of Glenville; her grandson is portrayed by Colin Long of Highlands, who plays his major role with equal effectiveness and charm. The supporting cast, including playwright Gary Carden who plays the cameo role of Manard Potts, all do a commendable job in sensitively depicting the mountain characters of the story. Virginia Talbot directed the play with Tanji Armor serving as stage manager.

Season subscriptions to the Community Players' 2007-2008 season of four plays are still available, as well as individual tickets for "The Raindrop Waltz" at \$15 each. The box office at PAC is open through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Student and group rates are available. Call 526-8084 to reserve tickets by VISA or Mastercard or pick them up at PAC during box office hours.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

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. 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.

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.

Friday, Oct. 26

- At Cyrano's author Rosetta Mowery signing "Tragedy in Tin Can Holler" at 3-5 p.m. and author Elizabeth Musser signing "The Dwelling Place" from 5-7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 27

- Highlands School Fun Run at 10 a.m.

- Highlands School Fall Festival 5 p.m. to 9 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. Spon-

sored by First Alliance Church to benefit The Dorcas House in Burkina Faso, Africa. Call 369-7977 to donate.

- Pancake Breakfast from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at the historic Scaly School House, corner of Buck Knob Road and NC Hwy 106, you'll get a complete breakfast of orange juice, pancakes, local patty sausage, and bottomless cups

Children's class at Bascom- Louise Gallery



Children's classes are in full swing at the Bascom-Louise Gallery. Fall leaves were the inspiration for this crayon with black wash creation. Caterpillars, a la Eric Carle, provide the backdrop for this young artist's inspiration. Later in the season, the classes will move to the Highlands School for afternoon programs until the gallery's new art center is completed in fall 2008. Call the gallery for more details at (828) 526-4949, ext. 4#.

of coffee. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children. Proceeds from the events are used to support the club's scholarship fund for local students and donations to area non-profit human service organizations.

- A Cyrano's Bookshop, author signings: 1-3 p.m., Thomas Rain Crowe signing "The House of Girls," Radiogenesis" and "The Book of Rocks;" from 3-5 p.m., Tony Dungy signing "A Quiet Strength." and from 5-7 p.m., Karen Weihs signing "Out of My Mind — Life Lessons As An Oil Painter."

Sunday, Oct. 28

- Western Carolina Music Department Faculty Showcase performance at

• See EVENTS page 40

Halloween at the Nature Center



Looking for a fun and educational Halloween activity for the whole family? Want to learn more about native plants and animals? Then come to the Highlands Nature Center and walk the "Enchanted Forest" Nature Trail scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, October 30.

Nature Center staff and volunteers will lead small groups on a gentle stroll through the Botanical Garden. Bring your flashlights and enjoy trick-or-treating along the trails where you will encounter a variety of friendly forest creatures portrayed by students from the UNC Institute for the Environment Program at the Highlands Biological Station. Learn about nature as each plant or animal you meet shares entertaining and interesting nature facts about themselves!

Groups will leave the Nature Center approximately every 15 minutes from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. This event is not scary and is appropriate for all ages. Admission is only \$1 per person. For more information, please call 526-2623.

Summit One GALLERY

Betty Foy Botts

Continues thru November 13



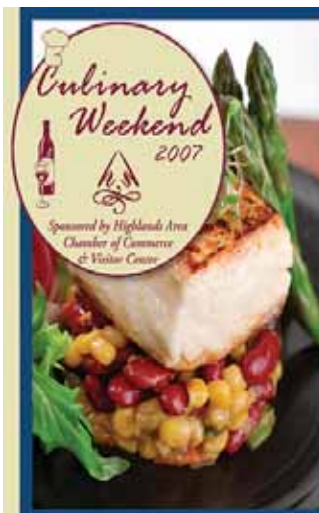
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Highlands, NC Culinary Weekend

November 8 - 11, 2007

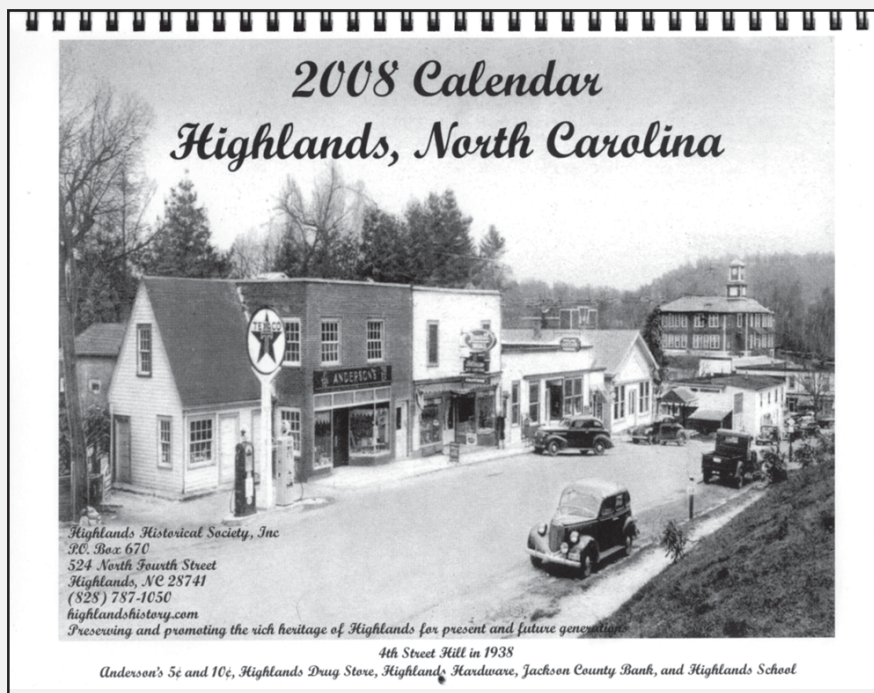
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866-526-5841

www.highlandschamber.org/culinary

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

2008 Highlands Calendar now available



Highlands Calendars for 2008 are now available at the Historical Museum, the Hudson Library, Country Club Properties, the Town Office, and the Highlands Country Club. Consisting of 12 photographs of old Highlands and costing \$10 each, a purchase of four earns a free cookbook, and all proceeds go to the Highlands Historical Society.

Pancake breakfast in Scaly Oct. 27

Enjoying a heaping plate of home-made pancakes is the perfect way to start a fall day. You can do just that as The Scaly Mountain Women's Club ends its summer series of breakfasts on Saturday, Oct. 27. From 7:30-10:30 a.m. at the historic Scaly School House, corner of Buck Knob Road and NC



Hwy 106, you'll get a complete breakfast of orange juice, pancakes, local patty sausage, and bottomless cups of coffee. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children. Proceeds from the events are used to support the club's scholarship fund for local students and donations to area non-profit human service organizations. Members have raised and distributed more than \$100,000 since 1900.

The breakfasts are planned again next year on the fourth Saturday of the month, May through October. The club also holds a benefit auction in July and participates in the annual Highlands' Arts and Craft Fair each November with its much-loved

Chocolate Fantasy booth. Guests at the breakfast can also see the progress of the current restoration project of the school house. Built in 1901, the building continues to serve as a gathering place for residents and visitors. For additional information about the club or the breakfasts call chairman Jan DeJong at 526-0370.

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 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.

- Trick-or-Treat downtown Highlands from 6-8 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 3

- At Cyrano's Bookshop, author Tom German signing "The Caucasian Dove" from 1-3 p.m.

- 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 pre-

Hurricane Creek plays at ITC Halloween Dance, Oct. 31



Halloween evening, on October 31st the streets of downtown Highlands will fill with children and adults merrymaking and masquerading in their costumes. The Instant Theatre Company joins in the spirit of the celebration by presenting a costume dance. The best band in Western Carolina, Hurricane Creek, each band member attired in Halloween finery of his own choosing, will provide the rhythm and blues and rock and roll. You will hear the music at dark time, radiating from the ITC's Studio on Main at 310 Oak Square, Main Street. Come on up to the Halloween Costume Dance to experience the excitement of the music and the swiftly moving, colored dance lights. To encourage everyone to come in costume we are offering an admission price of \$10 for adults in costume, \$15 for those not in costume. \$5 for children under 17. Refreshments are sold, and Halloween treats for children are offered. No reservations are necessary. Call 828-342-9197 for further information

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

sents "Cooking Central" at the First Annual Highlands Culinary Weekend. Highlands area restaurants, accommodations, and merchants will partner to present instructional culinary courses/classes, tastings, and outdoor activities. Call 866-526-5841 or 526-5841.

Friday, Nov. 9

- At Cyrano's Bookshop, author

Rober Moyer signing "Boone – A Biography" from 12-1:30 p.m. and Brent Martin signing "Poems from Snow Hill" from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 10

- American Red Cross Blood Drive at Memorial United Methodist Church (4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin) 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call 349-3254 for more in-

formation or to schedule an appointment. All presenting donors can enter a drawing for 2 Delta Air Lines domestic round-trip tickets! Volunteer blood and platelet donors must be at least 17 years old and weigh no less than 110 pounds. It is safe to give blood every 56 days and platelets every two weeks. All volunteer blood donors must show a photo ID. To find a convenient place to donate, please call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (448-3543) or visit www.redcrossblood.org.

Friday, Nov. 16

- American Red Cross Blood Drive at Angel Medical Center (120 Riverview Street, Franklin), 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 369-4166 for more information or to schedule an appointment. All presenting donors can enter a drawing for 2 Delta Air Lines domestic round-trip tickets! Volunteer blood and platelet donors must be at least 17 years old and weigh no less than 110 pounds. It is safe to give blood every 56 days and platelets every two weeks. All volunteer blood donors must show a photo ID. To find a convenient place to donate, please call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (448-3543) or visit www.redcrossblood.org.

Tuesday, Nov. 20

- American Red Cross Blood Drive at The Chef and His Wife (Iotla Street, Franklin) 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Please call 231-1372 for more information or to schedule an appointment. All presenting donors will receive a coupon for a dessert from The Chef and His Wife and can enter a drawing for 2 Delta Air Lines domestic round-trip tickets! Volunteer blood and platelet donors must be at least 17 years old and weigh no less than 110 pounds. It is safe to give blood every 56 days and platelets every two weeks. All volunteer blood donors must show a photo ID. To find a convenient place to donate, please call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (448-3543) or visit www.redcrossblood.org.

Saturday, Nov. 24

- At Cyrano's Bookshop author Mary Kay Andrews signing three books from 1-3 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 2

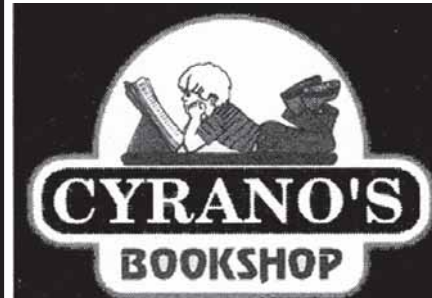
- East Coast Girls Volleyball showcase for 9th-12th grade girls at the Greensboro Sportsplex from noon-4 p.m. \$40 per player before Nov. 5; \$60 per player thereafter. Call Lucky Dog Volleyball at 877-665-6661.

Saturday, Dec. 8

- The Highlands Community Christian Chorale Christmas Concert is at 4 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church.

Sunday, Dec. 9

- The Highlands Community Christian Chorale Christmas Concert is a 7 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church.



390 Main Street • 526-5488

Upcoming Book Signings

Friday, Oct. 26

3-5 p.m.

Rosetta Mowery

Tragedy in Tin Can Holler

5-7 p.m.

Elizabeth Musser

"The Dwelling Place"

Saturday, Oct. 27

Saturday, Oct. 27

1-3 p.m.

Thomas Rain Crowe

"The House of Girls"

"Radiogenesis"

"The Book of Rocks"

3-5 p.m.

Tony Dungy

"A Quiet Strength"

5-7 p.m.

Karen Weihs

"Out of My Mind"

Ruby Cinemas

Hwy. 441, Franklin

524-2076

Oct. 26-Nov. 1

SAW IV rated R

Mon – Fri: (4:20), 7:10, 9:20

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

30 DAYS OF NIGHT rated R

Mon – Fri: (4:15), 7:05, 9:15

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

THE COMEBACKS rated PG-13

Mon – Fri: (4:15), 7:15, 9:15

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

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

The big event approaches... 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 – Nov. 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 anti-pasta & 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!"

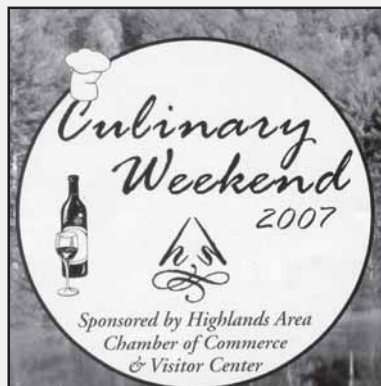
Enjoy the cuisine of many of Highlands' finest eateries including Cyprus Restaurant, Fireside Restaurant, Fressers Eatery, Lakeside Restaurant, Old Edwards Inn and Spa, Oak Street Café, ...on the Verandah, Ristorante Paoletti, SweetTreats, The Log Cabin Restaurant, and Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine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

man & 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, Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro, Cool Cats Hot Dogs Boutique, Cyrano's 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-5:00pm. 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.



... LETTERS continued from page 29

had all the attributes necessary to support something that would later be called life. Out of the mix of matter, elemental life precursors were formed through random interactions of inert materials... by a process cloaked in mystery. Against astronomical odds, these life precursors arranged themselves into life forms that simultaneously learned to reproduce themselves... by a process cloaked in mystery. Over millions of years, these basic life forms begat a multitude of incredibly complex life forms through a process called evolution."

You get the idea.

Even if evolution were true, it still could not explain the feeling of "oughtness", or moral obligation, self-consciousness, or love. It could not explain the self-

less acts during and after 9/11, or Katrina; the hiding of Jews by Germans during W.W.II, or a volunteer at an AIDS hospice.

While evolution's logical outworkings cannot explain self-sacrifice, it does have serious implications to the contrary. As the secular journalist Steve Turner writes, "If chance be the father of all flesh; disaster is his rainbow in the sky, and when you hear 'State of emergency,' 'Sniper kills ten,' 'Troops on rampage,' 'Youths go looting,' 'Bomb blasts school,' it is but the sound of man worshipping his maker." I agree with Katie that ideas have consequences. However, in a worldview that man is seen as "the missing link," how can one's moral compass ever find its true north? In closing, the utopianist dream of

having perfect harmony with creation is not an achievable one in a fallen world. Perfect harmony with the Creator – now there is something to strive for.

Waylon Chastain
Highlands

Truckers aren't totally at blame

Dear Editor,

I'm writing in response to the article "Reporting near misses on the Gorge Road" in the Oct. 11 issue of this paper and the subsequent Letter-to-the-editor "The Gorge Road from a trucker's point of view" in the Oct. 18 issue.

The trucker has a great point of view about the Gorge Road and all of the other

roads in Highlands in general. I would like to respond on the Gorge Road issue of near misses.

Eighteen-wheelers shouldn't be on that road period. There are other roads going into Highlands. It might take longer to get to Highlands by traveling the optional roads, but it certainly is a lot safer for the truckers and their trucks, and all the other individuals concerned.

Reporting near misses to accomplish a record toward the possible improvements or the closure of the Gorge Road to all truckers will prove to be a one-sided situation for the main reason of dishonesty.

People will be glad to report near misses as long as they aren't to blame for the near miss. Not all near misses are to be blamed on truckers or their trucks.

• See LETTERS page 46

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REPLACE your Hemlocks with NATIVE trees and shrubs or other adelgid-resistant Hemlock species - Chinese Hemlock, Mountain Hemlock, Western Hemlock or Japanese Hemlock -- as recommended by Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University. Call Chambers Land Management at 828-421-6448.

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HELP WANTED

COMPUTER VOLUNTEER NEEDED AT ART CENTER

— Calling all techies: the Bascom-Louise Gallery is in need of a volunteer to help the non-profit art center with its computers. From networking to printer issues to backing up their computers, the art center could use an extra person to volunteer his or her time to help. The art center also needs a wide range of other volunteers to help with several different areas: gallery docents, hospitality workers, gallery shop workers, clerical assistants, visitor services, library assistants, teaching assistants and Movers and Shakers (those who help with prop building, landscaping and other indoor and outdoor physical activities). For more information on volunteer opportunities, call (828) 526-0207.

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.

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.

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.

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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.

FOR RENT

IN-TOWN APARTMENT — 800 SQ. FT. ONE BEDROOM, ONE BATH. FULL KITCHEN. \$600/MONTH. CALL 770-827-0450.

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 util-

ities, 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 weekly, 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.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

BUCK CREEK; 1600 sq.ft. finished basement, creek front. Handicapped accessible w/elevator; 3 BR 2 large BA. \$329,000. 828-524-6038

UNPRECEDENTED DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY ON 140 ACRES 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. 12 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

FREE '07 HUMMER 3 WITH PURCHASE OF THIS NEWLY REMODELED HOME — 4 BEDROOM, 2.5

BATH HOME WITH BEAUTIFUL LONG RANGE VIEWS, 2 LIVING ROOMS, RECREATION ROOM, GRANITE KITCHEN, FIREPLACE, GREAT INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY, CAN BECOME A DUPLEX! \$369,000. CALL 305 458-0033

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. 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

•See CLASSIFIEDS page 44

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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 ½ 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.

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 ½ 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.pixelitvideos.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

SEII BUNK BED SET – Very Nice Desk; One 11X15 rug, Lt. in color, very good condition; Mountain Bike w/car carrier, helmet. Call 828-526-4064.

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 STRUCTURES: 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 – (7 w/o leaves) Great for Mountain Home. Nearly New. Good Condition. Leather & Upholstered chairs. \$1,000. 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

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

ONE DAHON PORTABLE FOLDING BICYCLES. 6-speed. Like new. Kryponite lock. \$125 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 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 sep-

arately. 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. 2 1 5 - 5 2 9 - 7 6 3 7 (www.jcwoodworking.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 Sweet-Treats, 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

MINI COOPER – 4WD, Tool Box, 10,500 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. \$98,000. Call 743-5593.

1991 HONDA PRELUDE – 190K miles. Runs Good. Looks Good. \$800.

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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 re-

moval, 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 or call Joseph McGahee at 706-754-9631 or email mcsaheeclockshop@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

Girls play Murphy at conference



The Highlands Varsity Volleyball season ended with Highlands second in Conference so they advanced to 1st round of state playoffs where they played Murphy at home on Saturday, Oct. 20 but could not come up with a win against the Bulldogs.

Photo by Stephanie McCall

• THANK YOU •

Highlands Historical Calendars going fast!

On behalf of the Highlands Historical Society (HHS), I am writing to thank the Highlands community for their outstanding support of our booth at the recent Highlands Arts & Crafts Show on October 13. We sold 2008 Historical Society Calendars, featuring black and white photos of Highlands dating back to the 1920s, as well as commemorative "Legend of Highlands" pewter plates. Over \$3,000 was collected, and we signed up four new HHS members as well! Many thanks to the Highlands Woman's Club for an outstanding job putting together this annual show.

The Highlands Historical Society is a non-profit organization composed of volunteers who are interested in preserving and promoting the rich heritage of Highlands for present and future generations. We are located at 524 N. 4th Street (directly across the street from the funeral home). We welcome new members and renewed memberships. Please visit the museum or our website for further information, www.highlandshistory.com.

The Historical Museum will be open on Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through October, and on Saturday from 1-4 p.m. in November and December. We will also be hosting our popular Christmas Showcase Home the weekend of the Christmas Parade (December 1 & 2). Further details will follow.

So plan a visit to the Historical Society's Historic Village, and get your Christmas shopping done at the same time.

Martha L. Betz
Seventh Generation Highlander
& member of the Board of Directors
Highlands Historical Society

... LETTERS continued from page 42

Truckers aren't always at fault.

Most trucks are nine feet in measurement from mirror to mirror and at least 30 feet long at the shortest. As for 18-wheelers, their trailers can be 70 feet long,

not counting the tractor. So add 15 more feet for a tractor and you have an 85 foot long truck on these dangerous roads.

I am a trucker and have driven for a local company in Highlands for nearly

five years and have driven a school bus for 10 years. The road in Highlands and coming into Highlands are approximately eight feet wide (or less) When the drivers'-side truck tire is not on the yellow line and is correctly on its side of the road, the passengers'-side truck tire is on

the white line or completely off the shoulder of the road.

Most of these semi-trucks are not local, unlike the lowboys (large flatbed 18-wheelers used to move equipment) or tandem dump trucks. And these local truckers are constantly meting residential or tourist motorists who are unfamiliar with the dangerously narrow and winding roads leading into Highlands from all directions.

These motorist being unfamiliar with these roads tend to drive on or left of center of the yellow line, due to no shoulders, low shoulders, a bluff, or a rockface hanging out in the road. They are too scared to stay completely on their side of the road. Now, picture meeting that scared driver in a curve while driving a large truck.

We see this everyday in the Highlands area. We truckers have had to put our loaded trucks into a dangerous ditch that could turn the truck over (and has) or pull the truck completely off the road altogether. The stopping distance of these trucks are the length of a football field or more, plus there could be 13 gears to downshift to slow the trucks down.

This near miss wouldn't have been the trucker's fault so would it have been reported? If it had, would it only add numbers against trucks on these roads? If so, then this is a one-sided situation. The reports should also be against other motorist besides just the trucks on these roads.

Will the N.C. DOT report all the near misses as fault to the truckers and their trucks or to these retired drivers who have poor vision, or who are scared or drunk while driving? This report shouldn't just be toward all of the trucks alone. These truckers shout report all near misses when it is the other driver's fault as well. Numbers count, but count the number right.

Elaine and Matthew Webb
Otto

... ANOTHER VIEW continued from page 13

I awoke early and hurried to the front porch. The snow had stopped during the night. The blanket was where I had left it, but Bear was gone. A street light reflected off snow flakes, which twinkled like stars. Despondent, I turned to go inside, but something was not right. I turned again to the snow covered yard and saw it. The blanket of snow was unmarked. There were no paw prints on the lawn, only the unbroken beauty of freshly fallen snow.

Happy Halloween

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Is Proud To Welcome General Surgeon Gus Dozier, MD, FACS

Offices Opening Monday, Nov. 5

Mountain Medical & Surgical Group

Jane Woodruff Clinic, Suite 104

209 Hospital Drive, Highlands, NC 28741

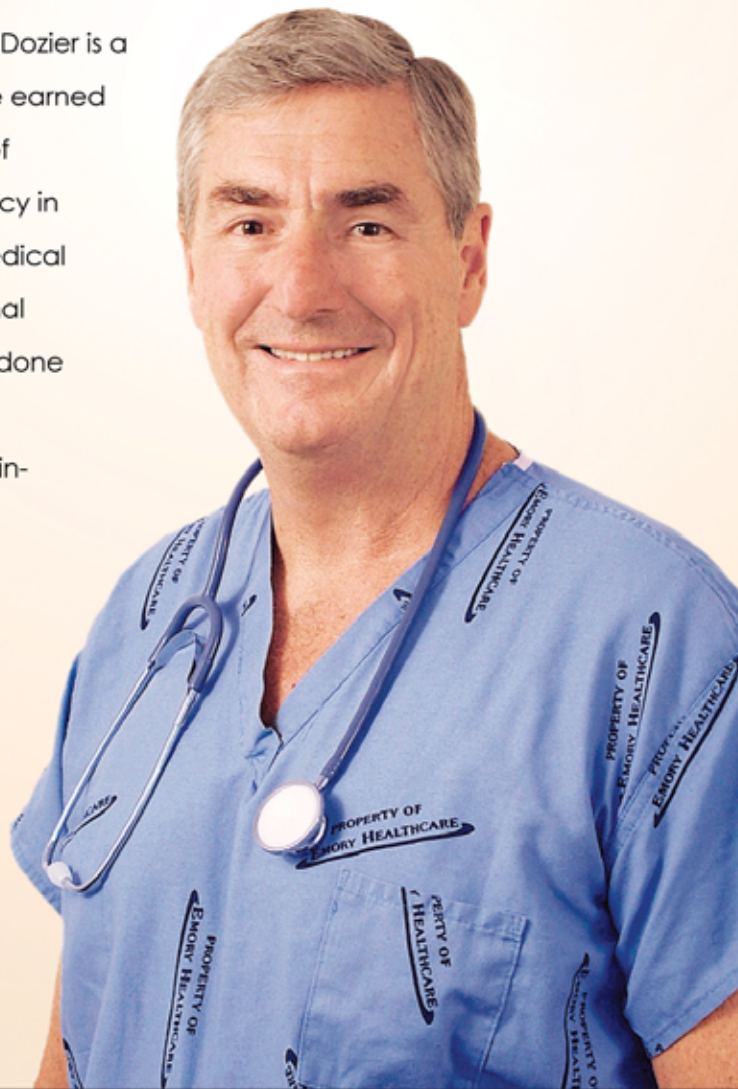
For Appointments, Call (828) 526-2371

Certified by the American Board of Surgery, Dr. Dozier is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He earned his medical degree from the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, and completed his residency in general surgery at Atlanta's Georgia Baptist Medical Center and affiliated hospitals. He has additional certification in laser and laparoscopy, and has done postgraduate study in diseases of the liver and pancreas, trauma and critical care, and gastrointestinal surgery. He is also an Assistant Clinical Professor of Surgery at the Medical College of Georgia.



Highlands-Cashiers
HOSPITAL

www.highlandscashiershospital.org



• POLICE & FIRE •

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Oct. 16-24. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Oct. 15

- At 10 a.m., Mountain Fresh Foods reported receiving a bad check for the amount of \$293.69.

Oct. 16

- At 1 p.m., a chainsaw and a pressure washer valued at \$150 each was reported missing from a residence on S. 4th Street. Officers believe the thief entered the residence through the bathroom window.

Oct. 17

- At 4:25 p.m., a motorist at Mirrmont and Hicks Road was cited for speeding 45 mph in a 25 zone.

- At 6 p.m., officers responded to a complaint of a barking dog at a residence on Foreman Drive.

- At 11:14 p.m., officers responded to a call of damage to a vehicle in the parking lot of Cypress Restaurant valued at \$500.

Oct. 18

- At 7:45 p.m., officers responded to a call at a residence on Paul Walden Way where the occupant claimed that someone had been stalking her for the past two weeks.

Oct. 19

- At 1:09 p.m., a motorist at Main and Fourth streets was cited for running a red light.

Oct. 20

- At 2:08 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Spruce and U.S. 64 east.

- At 8 a.m., handbells valued at \$500 was reported missing from the Highlands United Methodist Church sanctuary.

- At 6 p.m., Jonathan Smith, 16, of Highlands, was arrested for reckless driving and driving without a license at Chowan and Wyanoak.

- During the week officers issued 3 warning tickets.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Oct. 17-24

Oct. 17

- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Flat Mountain Road. It was due to burning food on the stove.

- The dept. responded to a call about an electrical problem at a residence on Norton Court. There was no damage.

- The dept. responded to a mulch pile fire in The Meadows. It was watered down.

Oct. 18

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a

medical call at a residence on Club House Trail. The victim was transported to the hospital.

- The dept. responded to a smoke alarm at a residence on Clear Creek Road. It was caused by smoke in the fireplace.

- The dept. responded to a fire alarm at Highlands School. There was no problem..

Oct. 19

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

- The dept. responded to a report of a vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road. The vehicle had left the scene..

Oct. 20

- The dept. responded to a motorcycle accident on U.S. 64 west. There were no injuries.

Oct. 22

- The dept. responded to a vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road. There were no injuries.

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

- The dept. responded to a vehicle accident at U.S. 64 east and Hospital Drive. One person was injured and transported to the hospital.

Oct. 23

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Black Rock Circle.

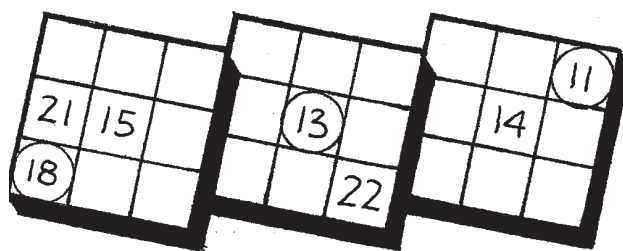
NOTE:

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®

#AZ2C - Level of Difficulty - Moderate



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.

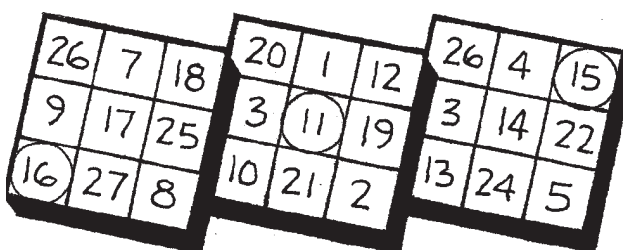
THE CHALLENGE:

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

Solution to #DZAC in Oct. 18 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:

"Study of Reactions Between Elements"

ACROSS

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

DOWN

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

Feedback encouraged: donvcook@aol.com

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Solution to Oct. 18 puzzle

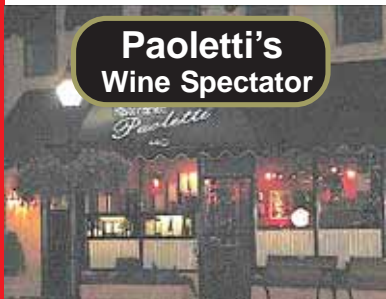
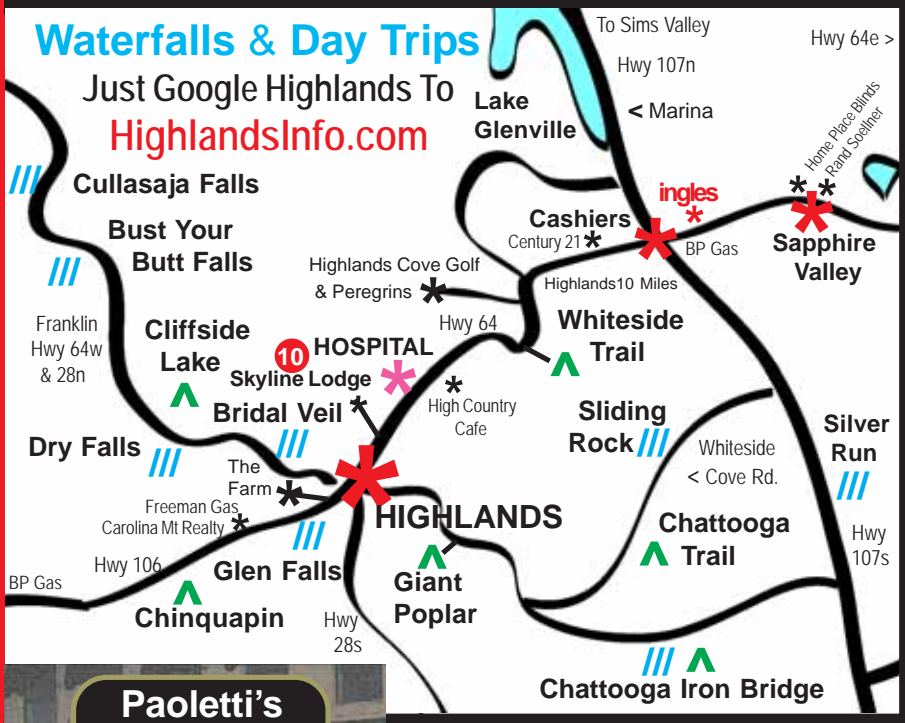
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S	O	U	Z	M	C	T	E	I
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Z	E	M	O	T	I	U	S	C

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Skyline Lodge
The Lodge

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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

The Farm & Highlands C.C.
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Summer House & Tin Roof
2 Miles Hwy. 106

Manley's Auto Service
J&J Lawn & Landscaping
1 Mile Hwy. 28s

Bryson's Foods
Gourmet Wines
Cheeses
Meats
Produce

DINING	Shopping	Real Estate
1 Cyprus	1 Acorns	1 Buyer's
2 Golden China	2 AnnaWear	2 Century 21
3 Lakeside	3 Bear Mt. Outfit.	3 Chambers
4 Madison's	4 Bungalow	4 Country Club
5 Main St. Inn	5 Dry Sink	5 John Schiffli
6 On Verandah	6 Elephant's Foot	6 Meadows Mtn.
7 Paoletti	7 Raspberry Fizz	Galleries
8 Pescado's	8 Silver Eagle	1 Bryant Art Glass
9 Rib Shack	9 Stone Lantern	2 Tino Gallery
10 Skyline Lodge	10 Village Kids	3 Twigs
11 Wolfgang's	11 Wholesale Down	4 Summit One

Highlands Map

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