

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 6, Number 14

PDF Version – www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, April 3, 2008

On-going

• Cardio Dance Class. \$5 per class, MWF at 8:30 am @ the Rec Park (downstairs).

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

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

Every Monday

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

Every Tuesday

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

Every Wednesday

• Adult handbell rehearsals at Highlands United Methodist Church at 6 p.m. Call Carroll Harris at 526-3376.

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

Every Friday & Saturday

• Live music at The Rib Shack every Friday and Saturday night from 7-10 p.m.

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.

Thursday-Sunday, April 3-6

• The students of Highlands high school present "Get Bill Shakespeare Off the Stage" at PAC. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. and at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Directed by Ronnie Spilton and Jim Gordon of the Highlands Community Players. Tickets are \$5 for adults. Students are free.

Friday, April 4

• At The Bascom, a "Young Artist Program" which opens Friday from 5-7 p.m. and runs through April 12.

Saturday, April 5

• Highlands Volleyball Team Fundraiser, 9 a.m. until at Highlands School. Best 2 out of 3 with a 45-minute time limit. High school rules — rally to 25, win by 2. Call Lindsay Gearhart at 371-1017, or 787-1112.

Tuesday, April 8

• The Highlands Botanical Garden needs volunteers between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to help mulch, weed, and plant. Call 526-2602 for info. Rain cancels.

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
78-57°F	73-49°F	72-46°F

Boards give two subdivisions final OK

Two subdivision plats were finalized and accepted at the April 2 Town Board meeting, but the final word on the subject came after much discourse by the Planning Board a week earlier.

At the Monday, March 24 Planning Board meeting, Bronce Pesterfield, representing Old Ed-

wards Hospitality Group's Satulah South subdivision, and Eric Pier-son, representing Hardscrabble Cottages, requested final plat approval prior to going to the Town Board, as required.

Satulah South

Final approval for the Satulah South subdivision was pretty cut

and dry. Board members learned that Town Engineer Lamar Nix had signed off on the utilities and roads which were all up to town standards. They are currently gravelled but will be paved, though they aren't required to be so by town standards.

• See SUBDIVISIONS page 16

Fire Dept. budget OK'd

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Department has done something few agencies do – it has decreased its budget for 2008-2009.

At the April 2 Town Board meeting, the board unanimously approved the department's budget of \$497,672 with the total request set at \$295,000 due to the amount in the department's building/equipment reserve fund. Now it goes to the county for approval.

Also, due to the increased property valuation of \$3.8 billion and a decrease in the department's budget, it has requested a decrease in the fire tax from .009 to .008.

Due to the increase in property values, the fire tax has steadily decreased since 2004 from .012 to the current request of .008.

Included in the budget is \$114,650 for part-time salaries and wages. All payments for salaries and wages go through the town payroll with FICA and Medicare payments made – then the fire department reimburses the town.

New as of 2007-2008, the fire and rescue department employs two part-time firemen who work a maximum of 24 hours a week each and one part-time office employee who works for 18 hours a week.

Also included in this year's budget is \$162,000 for equipment and vehicles. A 1998 Ford pump-truck will be replaced with a new tank truck for \$150,000; \$5,000 will be spent on rescue equipment; \$4,000 on fire equipment; \$2,000 on dive equipment and \$1,000 on three GPS instruments.

Highlands School play on stage at PAC



Students at Highlands School will present "Get Bill Shakespeare Off the Stage!" this week, Thursday-Sunday at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. All evening performances – Thursday through Saturday, April 3-5 are at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday's matinee on April 6 is at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for adults and free for students and are available at Highlands School, Cyranos Book Shop, Brick Oven Pizza and at the door. See page 18 for more play details.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

PAC to be test site for 'grass' pavers

The town's Performing Arts Center property will soon be a "demonstration" site for a rain garden and parking using pervious pavers and sod.

Over the course of two March Town Board meetings, Commissioner Amy Patterson, who also sits on the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center (PAC) board, asked if the town might consider

funding the project.

Prior to discussing the project, Commission Patterson disclosed that she sat on the PAC board and said she wouldn't vote on the issue.

A little over five years ago, PAC purchased the Dirty Dog Spa which bordered the back side of the PAC property on Laurel Street. The Dirty Dog Spa was given a

five-year lease after which time it was vacated, demolished and has now made room for more parking for PAC.

Commissioner Patterson said when the new sidewalk went in along Chestnut Street, off-site parking, typically used during PAC performances, was eliminated. "We now need more parking," she

• See PAVERS page 17

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

Greenway Pros and Cons

Greenways are good for communities

The following is an excerpts from the handbook on "PATHWAYS: how they are important how they help sell homes how to build them." From Teton Valley Trails And Pathways (2007)

Pathways provide safe recreational opportunities and practical alternative transportation routes. Pathways also have a significant positive economic impact on real estate values and local business sales.

Good community design for biking and walking should be comprehensive and integrated into overall community planning. It's not enough to just build a pathway and call especially if it doesn't lead to a place people want to go.

The national advocacy group America Bikes encourages communities to build Complete Streets— streets designed for pedestrians and bicyclists as well as cars and trucks. A well-planned pathways system ties into well-designed safe streets, allowing people of all ages to travel and play. Such a system functionally ties together people's homes with real destinations.

Trails and pathways bring many benefits to a community— functional transportation, support for good development and tourism, healthy recreation, tourism and opportunities for children to explore the world safely. A pathways system is used by a broad cross-section of nonmotorized users— individuals of all ages and abilities. By no means the exclusive domain of hard-core athletes, a paved pathway attracts children, mothers pushing strollers, seniors out for a morning walk, casual tourists, joggers and others drawn by the safe route.

Positive benefits of a trails and pathways system include:

- Safe travel routes for children and adults
- Enhanced quality of life and health for all ages
- Good business for developers and homeowners
- Increased traffic for local businesses
- Increased sense of community
- Access to the National Forest trails system

Pathways Sell Houses!

"Trail availability outranked 16 other options, including security, ball fields,

golf courses, parks, and access to shopping or business centers," according to a 2002 National Association of Realtors/ National Association of Home Builders survey. Only highway access was ranked as a more important amenity by the 2000 homebuyers surveyed.

Pathways are Good Business for Land Development

A pathways system is highly desirable for the residents of a community, and it makes good business sense for individual developers, homeowners associations and local government agencies to support and contribute to the system. Pathways help accelerate real estate sales and increase the sales price of properties benefiting from a well-planned community. Numerous studies undertaken in the past 15 years support this statement, but the most compelling evidence can be gleaned by looking at successful neighborhood projects in Teton Valley today, such as Teton Springs and MountainSide Village.

Building Community

While pathways are sometimes built by developers as desirable amenities to speed sales and raise values, pathways are much more than mere amenities. Pathways are critical infrastructure that facilitates non-motorized transportation and

• See PRO GREENWAYS page 2

Greenway neighbors balk at potential costs

JLF survey reveals concerns about crime, property values

Neighbors of Raleigh's Neuse River Greenway are much more likely than other greenway users to object to the greenway's potential costs in increased crime, decreased privacy, and lower property values, according to a recent John Locke Foundation (JLF) survey.

A new JLF Regional Brief summarizes the survey's findings. "It's not surprising that many people who live directly next to the Neuse River Greenway do not see it as an asset," said brief co-author Dr. Michael Sanera, JLF Research Director and Local Government Analyst. "The survey results confirm one of the central principles of economics: people take better care of their own property than they do of property owned in common. A publicly owned greenway is more susceptible to litter, crime, and degradation over time."

Raleigh is building the greenway

along the bank of the Neuse River from Falls Lake Dam to the Johnston County line. The city owns the greenway, and city government manages it. "For a greenway, the key questions are, 'Who benefits? Who pays?'" Sanera asked. "Economic theory argues that those who live next to the greenway pay more in costs — such as litter, crime, and a lack of privacy — than

• See CON GREENWAYS page 2

• THANK YOU •

Satolah Fire & Rescue benefit a success

The Satolah Volunteer Fire Department and the entire Moccasin precinct community thank all those who made our annual benefit such a success this past Saturday. A good time was had by all, and the department in the process raised the vital funds that will permit us to do our job better in 2008.

Special thanks must go to Blue Valley BBQ, Kingdom Cookers, and Charles Reed, John and Joe Munger, and Joe, Michael and Judy Geoghagan, who worked over that hot fire to grill the chicken and pork barbecue we all enjoyed.

Also, special thanks to Bryson's Food for the ice, Pat Hopton for the wildflower honey, and all those providing raffle items: Audrey Owens for that hand-knitted afghan, Margie Owens for the door prizes, Melanie Deaton of The Finishing Touch for the handsome necklace, and Reeves Hardware for the shotgun and the rifle. And the benefit would not have been the same without the engaging bluegrass music provided by the Grass Roots Revue and Country Detour.

There are countless others who also who also deserve our gratitude — including the wonderful ladies of Satolah who baked all the cakes auctioned off on Saturday, the hard-working veteran members of the department's auxiliary who served all the food, and, not least, the hundreds of friends, family and neighbors who braved iffy weather to make the event a success. Thank you, and bless you.

Chief James Reed

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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• MILESTONES •

Jenkins makes the grade



Highlands School 2007 graduate, Chase Jenkins, made the Dean's List for the first semester at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Jenkins maintained a 4.0 grade point average.

... PRO GREENWAYS continued from page 2

recreation — biking and walking — and fostering vital face-to-face interaction between neighbors, promoting community.

Friendly, unplanned interactions between neighbors are a key part of creating and sustaining community. These chance meetings happen constantly on pathways, sidewalks, Nordic ski trails and forest trails. A well-planned and designed community encourages and generates these opportunities while meeting transportation needs. The concept of community is intangible yet profound; it is the heart of a good place to live and something tourists sense and relish immediately when they visit a walkable, bike-friendly town.

Many U. S. Communities are Leading the Way!

Communities such as Boulder, CO; Bend, OR; Seattle, WA; Palo Alto, CA; Berkeley, CA; Washington, DC; and Jackson Hole, WY, have led the way in creating walking and bicycling friendly infrastruc-

ture. These cities have followed European examples such as in Holland, Denmark, France and Germany.

It is far easier to integrate trails and pathways into the design of a neighborhood before it is sold and built out. Once boundaries, fences, roads and landscaping are set, easements and permissions are tough to come by. If a public pathway route is designed into a development at the planning stage, the overall costs are reduced and the question of permissions eliminated. Prior pathways system planning allows local governments to identify appropriate routes and solutions, alerting developers to the reasons for them to plan pathways that connect to the town.

Designing neighborhoods and communities for walking and biking while adequately accommodating cars and trucks creates better communities that work for developers, residents, local government and visitors.

... CON GREENWAYS continued from page 2

they gain in benefits. On the other hand, greenway users who do not live next to the greenway receive more benefits than costs."

A useful greenway survey must distinguish between the responses of neighbors who face greenway-related costs and the responses of greenway users who face few costs, Sanera said. "Unfortunately, most surveys make no such distinction," he said. "These surveys do not tell us anything about the costs and benefits associated with those who live next to a greenway."

That's why Sanera and JLF research interns Justin Coates and Katie Bethune worked on the recent Neuse River Greenway Survey. It focused exclusively on residents in the Bedford Falls and Falls River

Community neighborhoods who own property directly adjacent to the greenway or an associated access path. JLF mailed anonymous questionnaires to 121 residents. Sixty-one residents returned complete surveys, yielding a response rate of 50 percent.

"Most respondents thought the Neuse River Greenway would affect them in negative ways," Sanera said. "While almost all of them believe their neighborhoods are safe now, 61 percent believed the neighborhoods would be 'less safe' after the greenway was completed. A plurality of 40 percent to 35 percent believed the greenway would not be an asset to the community."

Neighbors also had strong opinions

•See CON GREENWAYS page 9

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• LOOKING AT LIFE •

Dear Cairo: Go 'Bush' yourself

It was a good plan. While visiting Dubai to see our son, the pilot, the li'l missus and I became antsy and lusted to explore the Middle East further. With a kid in the airline business, snagging severely discounted airplane tickets has become our forte so we headed for Cairo, Egypt. Forget about the warnings from the U.S. State Department to stay out of the place; what do they know? Our son decided to tag along since his wife was busy doing silly stuff, like...working.

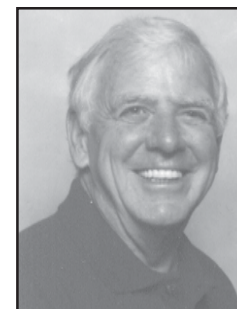
On the airplane, I closed my eyes and imagined the intrigue of this ancient Egyptian city. I softly hummed that old favorite: *See the Pyramids along the Nile* while I imagined quaint market places with narrow streets where merchants with monkeys on their shoulders peddled their wares. Wearing an Indiana Jones hat and whip, I imagined myself in a small café in old Cairo negotiating with an Egyptian explorer for a map of hidden treasure. And when I explored the pyramids, I would place my ear against the stone and listen for the gods to whisper the secrets of the universe. Look out, Cairo, here we come.

When the aircraft's wheels slammed to the runway, my imaginary images of the city slipped into a distant memory bank.

Wake up, Dodo; here's the real Cairo. It is called *the city of a thousand minarets*, has a population of 23 million seemingly angry people crammed into a very tiny space. While we did not come in contact with all 23 million, a microcosm of the city appears to hate George Bush and all Americans for putting him in office...twice.

Traffic was horrendous and any semblance of order in the streets was gone. There are no traffic signals or traffic lanes. Cars are inches apart as they travel at 10 mph, blowing their horns every five seconds, struggling and jockeying for position. It is maddening. There are continuous hand insults and frequent fights between drivers. Stepping into the street is like offering your life up to the Egyptian gods.

I should have become more suspicious when our cab finally pulled up to the Hilton Hotel and national policemen carrying AK-47 machine guns opened the gate to let us on the property. After dropping our bags, we hit the street. That's when we learned the 'Bush' word is also



Fred Wooldridge

•
**Feedback
is encouraged!
email:**

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an Egyptian curse word. Of course, their favorite insult is *Kiss my Bush*. With our fair skin, blue jeans and sneakers, we stood out like ugly Americans. People hissed at us and called us *English*. Dirty looks came from everywhere.

Are you sitting down? Because of the heavy traffic, we had to catch a cab in order to cross a six lane boulevard adjacent to the Nile River. The cabbie drove us to a turn-around and headed the opposite

direction, dropping us off at the same location, only across the street. For me, that's a first.

Cairo and Highlands do have one thing in common. There's a lack of toilet facilities for the numbers of people who might have a need to use one. Cairo citizens have cleverly solved this problem by urinating in the street. It's part of their *pee anywhere* program. This is something the Town Board might explore because the rain in Highlands is huge compared to Cairo, where it only rains five days a year and the stench of urine is seldom washed away.

The goal of every Egyptian we came in contact with was to transfer as much money from our wallets into their wallets. This is accomplished by deceit and lying. For example, the boat operator who took us on a private sightseeing cruise on the Nile river had failed to tell us there was a *disembark fee* to get off his boat. Sitting in the middle of the river, we could pay or swim. Then the next day, our 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. private tour, paid in advance, suddenly turned into a 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. tour.

When we finally got to the pyramids, I rushed up and placed my ear against the stone. I might be imagining this but I believe the stone whispered, *Get your dirty filthy infidel ear off me, you son-of-a-Bush*.

As scary as this trip was, we actually had a lot of fun and saw everything we wanted. But unless you're accustomed to traveling in hostile lands, I recommend you stay far away from Cairo. When we returned, Dubai looked pretty darn good to us.

P.S. - By the way, there are no pyramids along the Nile. DUH!

• Read Fred online at
www.highlandsinfo.com, scroll down,
click on News.

• ANOTHER VIEW •

The trials of older parenthood

Being a parent is great. I think that, for the most part, older parents savor the experience more than younger ones. I think we enjoy it more, appreciate it more fully. We have fewer distractions, are less likely to be burdened with the responsibility of building a career, or struggling to make mortgage payments. We are less likely to crave time away from home for nights out with our buddies. We thoroughly enjoy and appreciate the wonder that is a growing child.



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.
email:
hsalzarulo@aol.com

Most people are smart enough to realize that there are lots of older parents today, even if most are not as old as I. Why risk hurting someone's feelings?

We were in Colorado last week. A 60-something-year-old waitress with a thick, if not rich New York accent, like the woman in "Nanny" or "My Cousin Vinny" asked, "Is that your grand baby?" Bull will be 12 this week, so he was as annoyed as Lizzie and I. "He's our son," I answered as I con-

sidered a reduced tip. "Oh," she answered, "you just didn't seem very familiar with his eating habits." In what must have been calculated to reduce her tip even more she explained to Lizzie, "When my friends asked me why I didn't have a child, I told them that I didn't want to be 55 and be working on fifth-grade science projects." Then she added conspiratorially, "but maybe you're OK with that." Lizzie, who is much younger than 55 said, "Hit her with a mini-stiff!" The mini-stiff is my invention. It is intended to acknowledge for really poor service and represents 2.5% of the bill, in this case \$2.257, which I generously rounded up to \$2.26. It's not like leaving a buck, which might just mean that the customer is cheap or ignorant. \$2.26 makes a statement, and is a fairly easy calculation. I imagine with glee as she said in her New York accent, or maybe it's New Jersey, come to think of it, I've heard pretty much the same grating accent in Rhode Island, "The cheap bastard left me 2.5%. And I was so nice to them."

Older parents are pretty much like other parents except that we are older, wiser, and maybe just a little sensitive about it.

Older parents are pretty much like other parents except that we are older, wiser, and maybe just a little sensitive about it.

People usually recognize their error and drop the subject. Not always, though. One annoying guy, after learning the Bull was my kid gave a salacious wink and continued, "You are the man!" I guess that remark was intended to heal the wound. I wondered if he would have expressed similar admiration for my virility if he had known that Bull is adopted. Maybe he would have said, "Man, you've got a screw loose!" Or, "The little lady felt unfulfilled, huh?"

I told one guy that Bull's parents, my daughter and son-in-law, had been killed in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, and that we had adopted him. The bombing took place in 1988 and Bull was born in 1996, but the guy was obviously too embarrassed to count. Maybe he figured it out later. My usual response is a chilly, "Actually, he's my son." If the guy apologizes, I continue, "Don't worry. It happens all the time.. Otherwise, I just end the encounter with an uncomfortable silence. Of course, it doesn't happen all the time.

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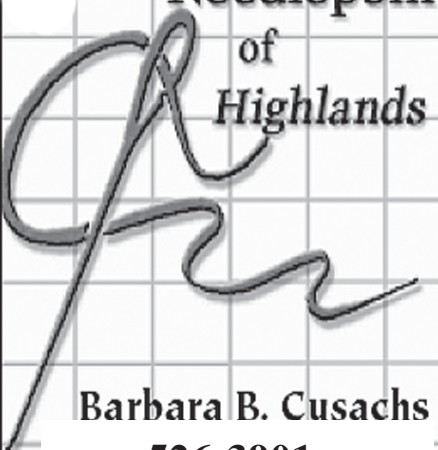
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• HIS & HERS •

Springing forward



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

Spring has sprung, and as far as I'm concerned, it's about time. That said, Daylight Savings Time still puzzles me. Why we make an effort twice a year to rearrange dark remains a mystery. Half the year, we wake up in the dark, and have more light at the end of the day. The other half of the year, we rearrange the dark so it's the other way around. I fail to see any big improvement, one way or the other.

When I lived in New York, I worked from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., so I regularly got up just before 6 a.m. to have a leisurely shower and breakfast. It still bugs me to wake up when it's still dark outside – it feels like I'm being punished for something. And before you get the wrong impression, I actually am a morning person, just not a dark morning one.

Along the driveway, under an old oak tree, three brave daffodils are trying to make a go of it. I look out every morning – keeping my fingers crossed that we don't have a sudden frost like last spring. Our apple trees near the barn, and our lone peach tree in front, were covered with a flurry of pink and white blossoms. It was my first spring here, and I had plans for trimming and spraying the trees. I'd already thought ahead to apple pies, apple butter, peach cobbler, and peach jam. I get particularly enthusiastic over gardening projects that end up in my plate. The frost put an end to all those dreams. I consoled myself with the thought that our loss was minor – after all, we could still go out and buy local produce. How different was the plight of local farmers – some of whom lost between 80%-100% of their crops last year. Try imagining this in terms of your own job. You work hard all year, and suddenly your income just vanishes. How do you pay your bills, feed your family, and send your kids to college? Most of us can't imagine what that's like.

This has seemed like such a long winter. I've gotten used to not having central heating. I know this, because other folk's homes now seem much too warm to me. All in all, there weren't too many evenings when we went upstairs to bed at 8:30 p.m., because it was simply too cold downstairs. The prospect of a cozy evening with a log fire, two affectionate cats, and one affectionate lawyer hasn't been a hardship – far from it. Unfortunately, the same said lawyer has come down with a few miserable

colds this winter – one of them turning into "walking" pneumonia, or rather "sitting on the sofa, feeling sorry for oneself, and playing computer games" pneumonia (if you want to get technical about it).

Oh, the joys of a sick partner, especially a sick male partner! "Honey," he moans. "Where's the Vicks?"

Followed shortly by, "Honey, where's that French medicine that you inhale?" The French medicine in question is a wonderful product, but, alas, one that requires finding the special blue plastic inhaler, going downstairs to boil the kettle, putting the medicine in the inhaler, adding the boiled water, trotting back upstairs to said partner who is now lying in bed, doing the supine version of The Dying Swan, minus the feathers and the sad music.

Over the next few days, we go through variations on this theme. "Honey, where's the Mucinex?" is followed by "Honey, where's the extra pillow?" and "Honey, do we have any soup left?" As you have probably figured out by now, I am Honey. By the time prospective spouse is over his cold, and feeling chipper, guess who comes down with The Dreaded Lurgi?

For those of you who are not yet fans of The Goon Show, here is the Wikipedia explanation of Lurgi:

The lurgi (also spelled lurgi) is British English slang for an unspecified or mythical contagious disease, generally one considered inconvenient and non-fatal with obvious symptoms, such as influenza or the common cold. Phrases like "I've got the lurgi" are commonly heard when somebody is explaining why they cannot attend a social occasion, come to work, etc. It is also often referred to as "The Dreaded Lurgi," based on a Goon Show episode from 1954.

Let me hasten to add that when I am the one with the lurgi – or cold in question – the Honey is on the other foot, or lung, as the case may be. I will not comment on my qualities or faults as a patient, but hasten to report that John is a splendid nurse. His loving care during my knee replacement surgery and recuperation stacked up a bunch of bonus points in his favor. Backing him up on the nursing side are our two cats, Orion and Weasel. They respond to sick humans with patience and delight. What?

• See HIS & HERS page 22

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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

Debtors are not free

I went to the Soviet Union during the summer of 1979. At the time a lot of people asked me why I didn't wait because the Olympics were scheduled to be held in Moscow the following year. I would reply, "Because I am interested in meeting the people of the Soviet Union, not dealing with other tourists and crowds."

I did get to see preparations for the Olympics — construction of stadiums and Pepsi stands — and I bought a few items imprinted with the Olympic logo (see photo).

In December 1979 the Soviets invaded Afghanistan, and in protest the United States led a boycott of the Olympics. Quite a few nations participated, but not Britain or France, interestingly. This was a blow to the Soviet people, and I am sure played a role, however small, in the break-up of

the authoritarian regime; the Soviet Union was gone a decade later.

Fast forward almost 30 years and we have another authoritarian regime hosting the Olympics. This was to be China's year to shine as a rising, modern global power. But the Tibetans seized on this as a perfect opportunity to increase awareness of their situation: in the view of Tibetans China has been occupying their country for 50 years and the world, for fear of antagonizing China, has allowed cultural genocide to take place.

The Tibetan protests began on March 10, the anniversary of the failed uprising against China in 1959, and



Katie Brugger
k-brugger@hotmail.com

developed into violent rioting in Lhasa. China says 19 people have been killed by rioters incited by Tibetan separatists, but the Tibetan government-in-exile says about 140 people have been killed in a crackdown on protesters by Chinese security forces.

And don't forget Darfur. In February Steven Spielberg decided to resign his role as artistic advisor to the Beijing Olympics due to his concerns about Chinese policy in Darfur, Sudan. Fighting in Darfur has killed more than 200,000 people since 2003. China buys two-thirds of Sudan's oil exports while selling its weapons. Many people believe that China's indifference to the suffering of the

people of Darfur is the main obstacle to ending the killing.

When asked for his reaction to Spielberg's actions, President Bush said that although he was concerned about the slow pace of international action in the Darfur region, it wouldn't stop him from attending the Olympics. He said Spielberg's decision was personal. "That's up to him. I'm going to the Olympics. I view the Olympics as a sporting event," Bush said in an interview with British Broadcasting Corp. television.

Some people have begun to talk about a boycott of the Olympics to push the Chinese to end their brutal, repressive practices. Should we organize a boycott? How can we when we are so dependent upon the Chinese for our economic well-being? Can we afford to

•See BRUGGER page 13

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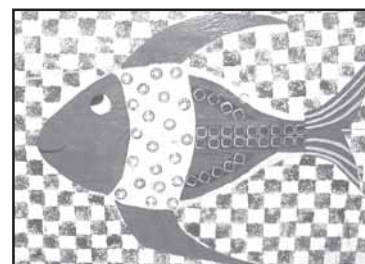
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• FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

Highlands has become a 'year-round' town

I had someone come to my office the other day with a question. "How do we convince people that the winters in Highlands are just as spectacular as the summer season?" I have noticed myself that more and more people are making our fair town a year round place of residence. I also have seen that the "summer season" has been extended by many people from four or five months to seven or eight. It is indeed true that there is almost as much going on the winter months here as the warmer months and more and more businesses and restaurants are staying open longer. And I can assure people that for me there is not much more beautiful that to see these mountains and valleys covered with snow and watch the most spectacular sunrises and sunsets that one can see anywhere. The views are far more spectacular in the winter.

Now if your entire life is built around playing golf everyday, maybe Highlands is not your year round place. However, I can say that there are many days in the winter in which golf could be played if the golf courses were open, and more and more courses are allowing people to play on these good days. I can foresee the day when some of our clubs in the area will be staying open much longer because a majority of their members have seen the light and recognize this is the place to be year round. Living in one season of warmth would be the most boring things I can think of. The changing seasons in Highlands and North Carolina is rapidly making our area a destination for full time living. Come on up folks and enjoy the winter!

The combined meeting of the Board of Commissioners and the Planning Board this past week allowed for in depth discussions of the two main issues currently facing us, and it looks like a decision on both restaurant parking and sidewalk displays may be close. We will be having a public hearing on parking on April 16. Dual parking and on street parking within 300 feet of the restaurant along with adjacent parking is being purposed. After much discussion regarding outdoor displays of merchandise, the B5-ETJ area was excluded and the matter was sent back to the Planning Board for further refining. It has always been my contention that businesses can display their merchandise on their own private property if it is done in an appropriate manner and does not obstruct pedestrian traffic. "Appropriate manner" must be determined by the



Mayor Don Mullen

Planning Board.

Let me just reiterate what I said at that meeting. Our Planning Board works long and hard to come up with appropriate recommendations to the town board and this work is appreciated by not only the commissioners but also by the town in general. The combined meeting we had

was good for open discussion, and we will plan to have more of these meetings together. There are many people, the Planning Board being a group of those, who donate their time and talent to the betterment of our community. We do not give them enough thanks.

The hospital is another group which gives to our community in a big way. They have just announced a total of five free community screenings over the next seven months in addition to several screenings at area clubs and mini health fairs which focus on such things as cardiovascular disease and women's health. We thank the hospital for all they do for the Highlands-Cashiers area. Medicine in our country must begin to concentrate more on "health care" instead of waiting on having to perform "medical care." There is a real and important difference. Prevention is the key to a healthy society and our medical community is doing their part.

Candidate forum April 10

On Thursday, April 10, primary candidates of local interest will speak at a forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Macon County.

Incumbent Macon County Commissioner Charles Leatherman, and James Goodman are vying for the District 3 Republican candidacy for County Commission in the upcoming May 6 primary. The winner will face Democrat Robert Kupper, who is unchallenged in the primary election.

Incumbent State Representative Phil Haire, and Avram Friedman are vying for District 119 NC House Democratic candidacy in the primary. The winner will face Republican Dodie Allen, who is unchallenged in the primary election.

The meeting will be held at Tartan Hall of the First Presbyterian Church in downtown Franklin. Lunch will be served at noon—call 524-5192. The forum will start at 12:15.

The public is invited and questions for the candidates will be accepted.

• COACH'S CORNER •

Final-Four preview

For the first time in history, we have all four number one seeds populating the Final Four in San Antonio this year. (So much for parity.) While we all enjoy the underdogs that arise during the tournament every year (we'll miss you Stephen Curry), this year's tournament is a dream for true fans of the game that want to see the four best teams in the country battle for supremacy. Here's a preview for all those who will be watching this weekend.

Memphis-UCLA

Both teams come in after playing perhaps their most complete games of the season, having destroyed both Texas and Xavier respectively in the Elite Eight. This will be a battle of wills, as UCLA's defense is one of the top units in the land and Memphis possesses one of the best offenses in college basketball. UCLA's post to post doubleteam strategy will likely be ineffective against Memphis, who prefers to drive the ball at the rim rather than throw the ball into the post. Several teams this season have slowed down the Tigers by playing zone and attempting to prevent forays into the lane by Derrick Rose and Chris Douglas-Roberts. UCLA will almost exclusively play man and attempt to force Memphis into jump shots and floaters rather than dunks and three pointers. If Memphis can get UCLA into an up-tempo game then their speed and athleticism will spell doom for the Bruins.

Key Matchup: Kevin Love vs. Joey Dorsey

Love is the PAC-10 player of the year as well as a first-team All-American as a freshman for the Bruins. However, he will face his biggest challenge of the year in Dorsey, who is a behemoth around the basket as a defender and a rebounder. While Dorsey is not much of an offensive force, he can give Memphis a lift by finishing dunks and hitting the offensive glass. Love will present a challenge for Dorsey as well, because he can score around the basket as well as step outside and hit jump shots-which will move Dorsey away from the basket. In order for UCLA to win this game, Love must outscore Dorsey by at least 20 points-which may be a tall order for the freshman. The Pick: Memphis 64-UCLA 61

North Carolina-Kansas

This match-up is intriguing for several reasons. Obviously it is a great match-up



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

from a basketball perspective because you have two great teams that have both been ranked number one at some point in the season. Then there is the side story of Roy Williams facing the Kansas program that he abandoned five years ago to take the job at North Carolina.

For Kansas fans, this is their version of the Super

Bowl, as they have the opportunity for their team to exact a measure of revenge for what they feel like was a traitorous act by Williams just five years ago. UNC is looking to run, run and run some more and get the ball out on the wings to Danny Green and Wayne Ellington and feed Tyler Hansbrough in the post. Kansas feels like they have enough bodies to throw at Hansbrough to slow him down, so UNC will need a big game from Deon Thompson or Alex Stepheson to prevent Kansas from doubling Tyler Hansbrough at every opportunity. Kansas is very similar to Clemson in personnel, but slightly more talented-it will be interesting to see how they will attempt to slow down UNC and prevent easy baskets.

Key Matchup: Wayne Ellington vs. Brandon Rush.

These two will likely not guard one another, but they are the main perimeter offensive weapons for their respective teams, and whichever one has a bigger game will likely decide the winner of this contest. Both players struggled in their Elite 8 matchups, with Ellington being held scoreless in the second half by Louisville and Rush scoring in the single digits against Ellington. These guys will have to bounce back if UNC or Kansas have hopes of winning a national championship. The Pick: UNC 77-Kansas 75

Bowling benefit for McGovern

On Saturday, April 5 there is a Benefit Bowling Tournament for Alan McGovern of McGovern Floors who is being treated for Melanoma Stage 3 skin cancer and has no insurance. A No-Tap Tournament at Franklin Lanes beginning at 1 p.m. Sign in is at 12:15 p.m. Entry fee is \$20 and all entry fee money will be donated to Alan for medical bills. 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes, \$200, \$100 and \$50, respectively. (Subject to change based on entries.) Call Cindy McGovern at 828-421-3934 with questions or donations for door prizes and raffles.

... CON GREENWAYS continued from page 3

about the greenway's potential impact on taxes, Sanera said. "A large majority — 85 percent — would not want to pay for the greenway project with an increase in property taxes," he said. "Only 8 percent of respondents supported that option. By a two-to-one margin — 46 percent to 23 percent — respondents thought the greenway would decrease their property values."

Negative reaction was especially strong among neighbors of the access path, Sanera said. "This should not surprise us, since the 25-yard-wide access path offers the prospect of little to no vegetation to block greenway users' views of backyards and homes," he said. "Neighbors of the access path would face especially high costs."

Of 33 written comments submitted along with the survey, five favored the greenway, seven were neutral, and 21 were negative. "Some respondents raised serious safety concerns, while another key theme involved the invasion of homeowner privacy," Sanera said. "One comment indicated that the proposed greenway had prompted one family to move out of the neighborhood."

A city-owned and -operated greenway forces homeowners who live next to the greenway to pay higher costs in terms of lack of privacy and an increase in crime, litter, and noise than they would receive in benefits, Sanera said. "The survey results also imply that greenway users who would not live next to the greenway would receive more in benefits than they would pay in costs," he said. "Such results could not happen if the greenway were to be constructed on private property. "A private greenway operator would have to pay property owners for their land, and to recover those costs the operator would need to charge those who use the greenway," Sanera added. "A system based on property rights and the rule of law would produce a more equitable result."

Michael Sanera, Katie Bethune, and Justin Coates' Regional Brief, "Raleigh's Neuse River Greenway: Nice place to visit, but you wouldn't want to live next to it," is available at the JLF web site. For more information, please contact Sanera at (919) 828-3876 or msanera@johnlocke.org. To arrange an interview, contact Mitch Kokai at (919) 306-8736 or mkokai@johnlocke.org.

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Bridging the distance

Arnold Graton and Don Walker, master bridge wrights of Graton and Associates, are in Highlands from New Hampshire, hard at work assembling the new covered bridge signature entrance at The Bascom. They are preparing the bridge for the Old-Fashioned Bridge Pull on May 24, a community event at the Oak Street construction site where people will watch as oxen pull the bridge into place, as was done in the old days. Big, wooden, handcrafted pegs called trunnels, which hold the bridge together, are going in by hand. No steel will be used in this bridge; it is all wood. For more information about the bridge or the bridge pull event, call The Bascom at (828) 526-4949.



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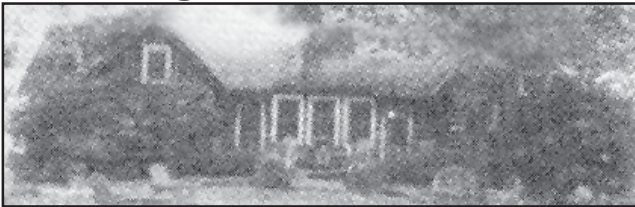
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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

When is 'Wright,' wrong?

Herman Kane is a black man. He is also a well-educated, well-spoken, conservative talk show host. I admire him as a journalist and if he has 100 opinions, I'll probably agree with 99 of them. The other night, Herman tried to somehow justify Rev. Wright's vitriolic outbursts, along with a couple of other anti-white, anti-American pastors, who have been drawn into the conversation.

Herman says that these guys are not typical black preachers, and that there are many black churches that are loving, patriotic, congregations that hear the real thing and we shouldn't judge black churches by a few renegade hate mongers.

Well, of course that's true, Herman. As a Gideon, I gave a temple talk at the Allapatta Baptist Church in Miami, a totally black church. I couldn't have been received more warmly.

Here's the problem. Certainly, the black separatist, woe-is-us, hate spewing congregations are few and far between, but does that make them tolerable any more than an occasional Mosque housing a radical Muslim, America hating congregation? We are asked to believe that Islam is a religion that preaches love and peace. Tell that to the 3,000 or so Americans who died by their hand.

Now, am I comparing churches espousing black liberation theology with radical Muslim mosques? I'll have to think that one over.

What I do know is if a man can be the member of a church for 20 years, call his pastor his spiritual leader and not know his mentor is a raving America-hating racial bigot, he's either lying or too stupid to live or both. I don't trust Obama and I don't trust his wife, and anyone who thinks they know what to expect from Obama as President is deluding themselves. With Islam in his past and God only knows what in his present, I don't want any part of him.

The bad news is he will represent one of the two major parties in the race for leader of us all. His speech on race in America is being called one of the greatest pieces of oratory in history. That's lovely. He throws his granny (she's white) under the bus, but can't quite bring himself to disassociate himself with Jeremiah (the pastor), even though he says he's full of beans (after being beaten senseless in the press).

Obama is a shallow, empty-suit that



Don Swanson
Feedback is
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speaks well and says nothing of value. Try as I might, I cannot figure out who or what sponsored and promoted his run for the White House. It is just not believable that a Senator, in his first term, wakes up one morning and decides that the Presidency is within his reach. I'd like to know who pushes his buttons and to what end. At least, with the Hildabeast, you know what you're getting, for better or

worse. With this guy, it's a crapshoot.

Meanwhile, other signs of the degeneration of our society. While watching CBS's coverage of March madness, they ran a promo of one of their upcoming shows. Chief idiot Brittney surfaced (I told you she would) and evidently stars in this sitcom. Her line in this commercial is, speaking to some guy (nearly a stranger) I assume is a regular, "can we have sex before we go shopping?" Do people actually watch this garbage?

Barry Bonds, all-time home run champ, and doped-up hero of America's pastime doesn't have a job in major-league baseball as of this writing, and the likelihood is he won't. Finally, even though he could probably DH for somebody, wisely no general manager is going to put out nickel one, much less his asking price of \$20 million, to have that bloated head case screw up their clubhouse.

Bear Stearns, one of the largest global investment banks and securities trading and brokerage firms in the world, is, for all practical purposes, no more. The stock of this financial giant, through whom my firm cleared our trades for several years, traded at \$171 last year. As the sub-prime mortgage business unraveled, the greed that constructed highly leveraged mortgage-backed securities and made huge profits for the investment community turned around and bit them big-time. JPMorgan Chase will buy them out at \$10 a share. How the mighty have fallen.

What has all this got to do with anything? We've got rampant race division, no morality whatsoever, self-adulation at all costs and ruinous, destructive greed.

Drugged-out rockers are role models. Teen-age bimbos are idolized. Better ground your young ones in Godly principles. They're in for a bumpy ride.

Factoid: No President has had a last name starting with O or ending in A.

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Democratic Women April meeting in Highlands at Community Building

To feature local candidates and Adam Sotak

The Macon County Democratic Women will be holding a special monthly meeting in Highlands on April 15 at the Highlands Community Building, formerly known as the Conference Center.

There will be two special speakers; our very own Macon County Bobby Kruppers, who is running for Commissioner, and Adam Sotak, organizing director of Democracy North Carolina. Democracy North Carolina, based in Durham, NC. It is a non profit, non- partisan voting rights organization that works to fulfill the promise of "one person, one vote" the bedrock principal of equal rights and self determination.

Sotak has a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Appalachian State University in Boone and a Master's degree in Social Work from UNC-Chapel Hill. He has been working as an organizer with Democracy North Carolina since January 2000.

In 2001, he received the Humanitarian Award from the Charlotte-Black Political Caucus and in 2005 he received the "Unsung Hero Award" from the Charlotte-

Mecklenburg NAACP for his work on voting rights.

The topic of his presentation will focus on Democracy North Carolina's ongoing statewide "get out the vote" efforts, which include early voting, same day registration (passed 2007) and public campaign financing.

The meeting is set to begin at 6 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:15 p.m. catered by Jan Zehr of Blackberry Hill of Highlands. Speakers will follow the delicious spring dinner of ham, fruited pilaf, asparagus, spring salad, and dessert.

The cost is \$120 but reservations must be made by April 7. To make reservations call Sarah Wilkes at 349-1792 or e-mail towilkst@smnat.net or Lee Hodges 526-3363.

Men are encouraged to attend. Everyone is invited. Participants are asked to bring a non-perishable item for the "Souper Tuesday" food drive. The food will be donated to Care Net in the spirit of liberalism.

Free lawyer advice on Friday, April 4

This year, the North Carolina Bar Association is taking steps to educate its lawyer members, the legislature and the public about the critical need to support access to justice for the poor. This campaign is called 4ALL, echoing the closing words of our Pledge of Allegiance – “with liberty and justice for all.”

Friday, April 4, is a red-letter day in the 4ALL campaign. On that day, more than 600 lawyer-volunteers will be staffing call centers across North Carolina. North Carolinians, regardless of economic status, can call toll-free anytime from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and talk directly to a North Carolina lawyer for free. You do not have to give your name or any contact information.

The toll free number is 877-404-4149.

Do you have questions about child support, job rights when terminated, speeding tickets, incorporating a business, or writing a will or power of attorney? The NCBA, as a public service, wants to help you, your co-workers, or your neighbors. We invite you to talk to a lawyer on April 4 at no charge and with no strings attached.

Even the call is free.

Equal access to justice, in a system where the powerful and the powerless have equal rights, is a founding principle of our democracy. We need your help. Please share the call-in number, 877-404-4149, with your friends, family, and neighbors. Lawyers all across North Carolina will be ready, willing, and honored to answer the call.

Hospital's five free health screenings to begin April 26

Area residents will have plenty of opportunities this spring, summer, and fall to find out how healthy they are, as Highlands-Cashiers Hospital again hosts a series of free community health screenings throughout the area.

This will be the 14th year the hospital has offered free screenings, either by itself or in conjunction with other organizations. Nearly 450 people took part in the four public screenings held throughout the area by the hospital

A total of five community screenings are planned over the course of the next seven months. That's in addition to several screenings held at area clubs, mini health fairs that focus on a particular area such as cardiovascular disease or women's health, and screenings that are part of the Healthy Living Fair, held each spring.

Three of this season's community health screenings will be held in southern Jackson County, including two at Blue Ridge School (Saturday, May 17 and Saturday, Oct. 4) and one at the Sapphire Valley Community Center (at the ski slope) on Aug. 20. This year the Rotary Club of Cashiers Valley has teamed up with Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, providing volunteer staffing and grant money for those events.

Residents of Highlands, Scaly Mountain, and surrounding areas will be able to choose between two screenings being held in southern Macon County this season. The first will be held Saturday, April 26. The other will be Saturday, Sept. 13. Both of those screenings will be held on the first level of the Jane Woodruff Clinic on the hospital campus. All of the screenings, regardless of location, will start at 7:15 a.m. and preregistration is required.

In fact, hospital officials say they are already accepting sign-ups for the April 26 screening. People can register by call-

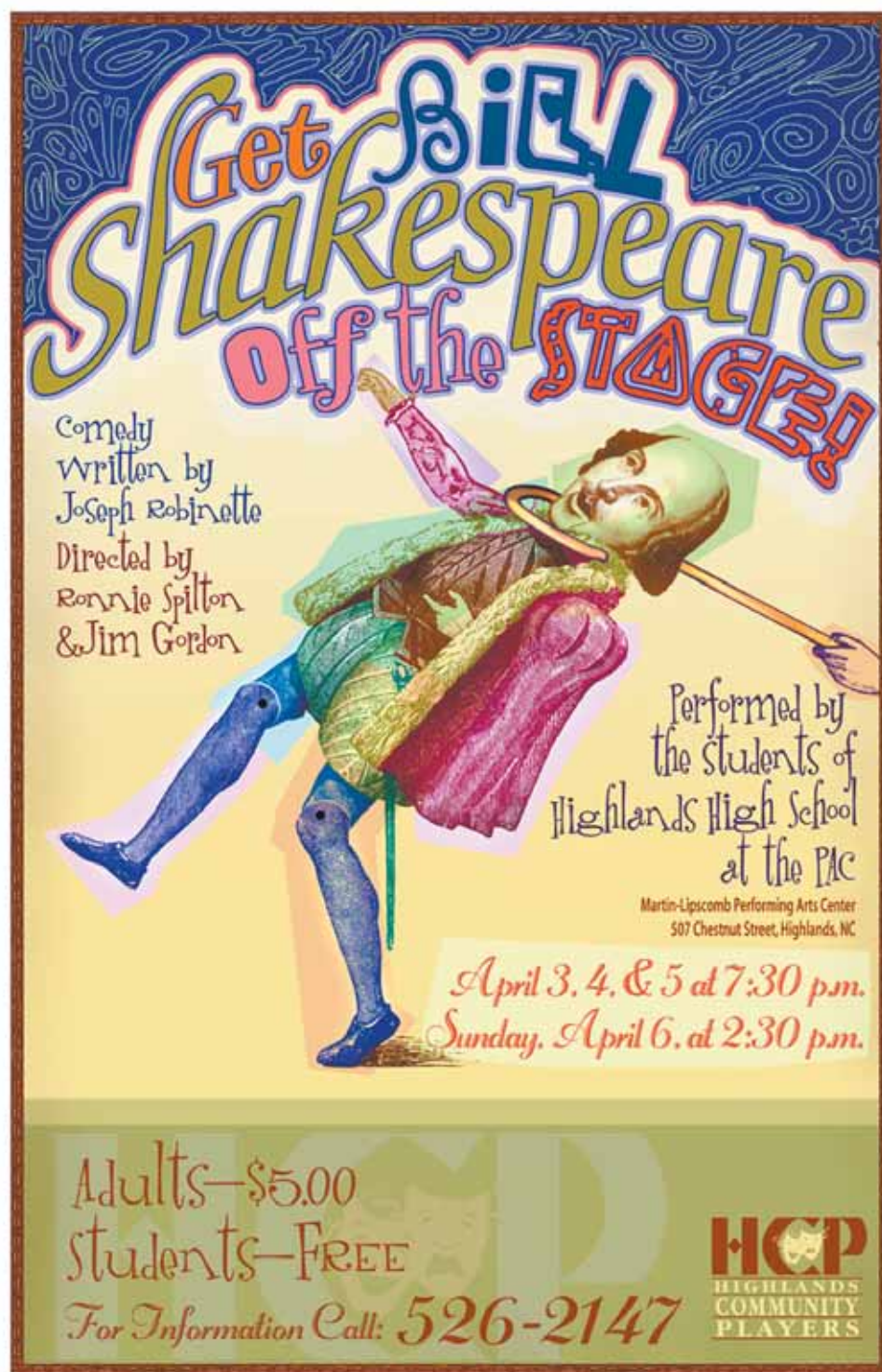
ing the hospital at (828) 526-1435, or sign up on the hospital's website at www.highlandscashiershospital.org (click on the screening menu, and complete the registration form). Those registering on line will receive a confirmation email. Appointment times will be assigned as part of the registration process to help reduce lines and waiting times. As in the past, those participating in screenings are asked not to eat or drink anything but water after midnight the night before.

Confidential results of screening tests will be reviewed by the participant's own family physician (or another local physician if no family doctor is specified) before being mailed out.

Although not intended to replace regular check-ups by a personal physician, the screenings can be helpful in spotting potential problems that may need to be addressed. Participants will be checked for height and weight, BMI (body mass index) and body composition (body fat), blood pressure, blood oxygen saturation level, cholesterol and triglyceride levels, glucose (blood sugar) levels, and white and red blood cell counts (to detect anemia and infection). Men over the age of 45 will also receive a blood test to detect prostate cancer (PSA).

In addition to the various tests, a dietitian/nutritionist will be on hand to discuss healthy eating and exercise habits, and a physical therapist will be available to evaluate balance and strength. Hearing tests and ear examinations are also be conducted at most of the screenings, and several area physicians are often in attendance. All of that is in addition to a complimentary continental breakfast.

A wealth of health information is also available. There is no age limit, but minors require parental consent.



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Directed by
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In Jackson County:

At the Blue Ridge School on Saturday, May 17 and Saturday, Oct. 4 and, at the ski slope at the Sapphire Valley Community Center Saturday, Aug. 20.

All of the screenings, regardless of location, will start at 7:15 a.m. and preregistration is required.

Register by calling the hospital at (828) 526-1435, or sign up on the hospital's website at

www.highlandscashiershospital.org
(click on the screening menu,
and complete the registration

In Macon County:

In Highlands Saturday, April 26 and Saturday, Sept. 13 first level of the Jane Woodruff Clinic on the hospital campus.

All of the screenings, regardless of location, will start at 7:15 a.m. and preregistration is required. Register by calling the hospital at (828) 526-1435, or sign up on the hospital's website at

www.highlandscashiershospital.org
(click on the screening menu, and
complete the registration form).

... BRUGGER continued from page 7

alienate the Chinese? In 1980, the U.S. didn't owe the Soviets money. We didn't depend on them in any way (except as a handy scare tactic to keep the American people in line); in fact they were regularly dependent on us for food.

We owe the Chinese plenty. They hold somewhere around \$1 trillion in U.S. treasury bonds. After the U.S. Congress brought up legislation last fall to impose economic sanctions on China to force the country to revalue its currency (the yuan), the Chinese government began hinting that it might liquidate its vast holding of U.S. treasuries. He Fan, an official at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, commented that Beijing had the power to set off a dollar collapse if it chose to do so. "China has accumulated a large sum of U.S. dollars. Such a big sum, of which a considerable portion is in U.S. treasury bonds, contributes a great deal to maintaining the position of the dollar as a reserve currency. The Chinese central bank will be forced to sell dollars once the yuan appreciated dramatically, which might lead to a mass depreciation of the dollar," he told China Daily.

Some economists say that the chance the Chinese would activate this "nuclear option" is unlikely, that it would hurt them as much as us. As a Brookings Institute study put it, when a loan is that big it becomes the banker's problem, not the lender's.

I'm not advocating a boycott of the



Brugger's souvenirs gotten during a 1979 trip to the Soviet Union.

Beijing Olympics. I think the boycott of the Moscow Olympics was an example of Cold War brinkmanship (the Iranian students had already taken the U.S. Embassy staff hostage, President Carter was trying to look tough in an election year) that had its biggest impact on the athletes, some of whom lost their only chance to go to an Olympics game.

But I also think this is an interesting illustration of the position our national indebtedness has placed us in. A debtor is not free. A debtor has to speak and act carefully so as not to anger his or her banker.

- All of Katie Brugger's columns are available on her website: www.kathleenbrugger.com



Several items with the 1980 Olympic logo that were actually available in 1979.

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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going

• Book Sale at the Jackson County Library. Bargains galore can be found at the Friends of the Library Used Bookstore which is located at 536 West Main Street in downtown Sylva. All bargain books have been priced at 2 for 50 cents and 2 for 25 cents. The pricing is effective immediately. All the profits from the Friends of the Library Bookstore go to support the Jackson County Public Library.

• The Highlands Playhouse is taking reservations for "Always Patsy Cline," Thurs.-Sun., June 19-July 6; "On Golden Pond," Thurs.-Sun., July 10-20; "70th Anniversary Diamond Review," Thurs.-Sun., July 24-Aug. 10; and "Inherit the Wind" Thurs.-Sun., Aug. 14-31. Please call 828-526-2695 or write or PO Box 896, Highlands, NC 28741.

• Highlands Playhouse is taking reservations for its annual Children's Theatre Mond-Fri., July 7-18, taught by instructors with extensive experience in theatre education 9 a.m. to noon for ages 6-10,

and 1-4 p.m. for ages 11-16. Please call 828-526-2695 or write or PO Box 896, Highlands, NC 28741.

• Registration is now open for the 2008 summer nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are offered: "WOW! - a World of Wonder" (ages 4-6), "Amazing Animals" (ages 7-10), "NatureWorks" (ages 7-11), "Mountain Explorers" (ages 10-14), and "Junior Ecologists" (ages 11-15). Some camps are offered more than once during the summer. Sessions run from Tuesday to Friday each week. For complete schedules, costs, and other information, please call 828-526-2623 or visit www.wcu.edu/hbs.

• Cardio Dance Class. \$5 per calls, MWF at 8:30 am @ the Rec Park (downstairs).

• Yoga at the Rec Park, 7:30 a.m Monday and Wednesdays. Call 526-4340 for information.

• Yoga in the bottom floor of Jane Woodruff Building. 10:30 a.m. Thursdays. Call 526-4340.

• NA open meeting every Saturday at 7:30 p.m. of the ACC Satellite Group at the Graves Commu-

Highlands Biological Station offers full slate of summer programs

Since 1927, the Highlands Biological Station has been a center for education and research of the rich biological diversity of the Highlands Plateau and southern mountain region. Eighty-one years later,



HBS is a full-service learning campus, offering both in-residence and day programs for all ages. The Nature Center is a hub for many summer programs, particularly for younger visitors and their families, and is open daily during the summer season free of charge.

From May 26 - August 26, hour-long programs are offered daily for drop-in visitors to the Nature Center (such as "DO Feed the Animals" and "Featured Creature"), and a few special programs highlight the season (including the "Owl Prowl" and "Salamander Meander"). The Nature Center also offers an extremely popular line up of day camps designed to teach children about the plants and animals of the southern mountains and to expose them to the world of natural science. Programs include: "Wow! - a World of Wonder" (ages 4-6); "Amazing Animals" (ages 7-10); "NatureWorks" (ages 7-10); "Junior Ecologists" (ages 11-15); "Mountain Explorers" (ages 10-14).

Each camp lasts four days. Pre-registration is required and camps fill quickly; call ahead for space availability. For more information on these and other Nature Center offerings, visit www.wcu.edu/hbs/Naturecenter.htm or call the Nature Center at (828) 526-2623.

The Highlands Biological Station has fully equipped classrooms, laboratories, offices, a library, and computer lab for visiting students and researchers, and can house up to 36 people in five residences on its 20+ acre campus. Capacity will increase, with

classrooms and a new residence in the works.

Each year, HBS offers summer workshops (usually 1 week long) and 2-week courses on special topics relevant to the Highlands

Plateau, during which students may reside on campus. These offerings are generally taught by visiting professors, many renowned, from colleges and Universities across the Southeast and beyond; the students vary widely in their backgrounds, interests, and experiences.

Most courses and workshops are geared toward advanced undergraduate or graduate students, professionals in the natural sciences, or members of the public that have backgrounds in science. However, some courses have no prerequisites are also appropriate for those without a science background.

Summer Workshops include: Teacher Education Workshop in Mountain Biodiversity Studies (June 16-20); Scientific Illustration-Rendering Nature's Details With Accuracy (July 7-12)

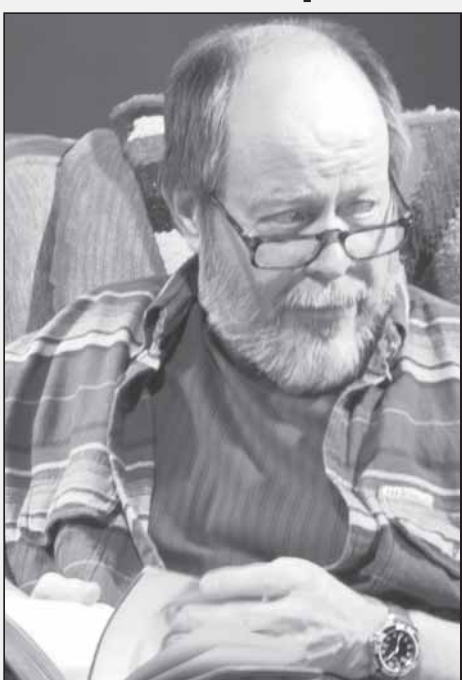
Summer Courses include: Biology of Plethodontid Salamanders (May 19-31); Mammals of the Southern Appalachian Mountains (June 2-14); Biodiversity and Conservation of Birds (June 16-28); Microbial Ecology (June 30-July 12); Fleshy Fungi of the Highlands Plateau (July 14-26); Spiders of the Southern Appalachians (July 28-August 9)

For program descriptions and information about costs, academic credit, instructors, and prerequisites for our summer courses and workshops visit www.wcu.edu/hbs/currentcourses.htm or call the Highlands Biological Station at (828) 526-2602.

ITC's 'Ice breaker' opens April 10

Recently BBC news released an article from its environment correspondent Richard Black that stated, "Arctic losing long-term ice cover... The arctic is losing its old, thick ice faster than in previous years, according to satellite data. The shrinking of arctic ice has global implications, as its white surface reflects solar energy back into space whereas the open ocean absorbs it. It is not likely that perennial ice will recover in the long term."

The Ice-Breaker, a new play by David Rambo, opening April 10 at the Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main deals with today's compelling and alarming issues of climate change. David Milford portrays the role of Dr. Lawrence Blanchard, a genius paleontologist whose work has been disgraced by political backstabbing and corporate cover ups. For 12 years he has been living a hermit-like existence in the Southwestern American desert. It is here that Blanchard is tracked down by a young climate scientist (played by Madeleine Davis) for whom Blanchard's work has been an inspiration. Their encounter sets in motion a transformation for both scientists and revelations about each character's past secrets that have long been buried like the evidence they look for in layer upon layer of ice.



David Milford as he appears in the role of Dr. Lawrence Blanchard in The Ice-Breaker

David Milford appeared at the ITC in last season's Copenhagen and the performance piece Diaries of Adam and Eve. David has played scores of roles during his forty years as a professional actor. Regionally, at the Theatre in the Square he has been starred (in among others) as Morrie Swartz in Tuesday's with Morrie, Davies in The Caretaker, Walter Burns in Front Page, Nano in Night of the Iguana, Hector Nations in Foxfire, Matt Friedman in Tally's Folly, and

most recently as Willie Stark in All the Kings Men, for which he was nominated as Best Actor in the Atlanta Theatre Awards of 2007. David has also frequently appeared at the Horizon Theatre, Theatrical Outfit and on the Alliance Main Stage. Currently he can be seen in the new comedy film Randy and the Mob.

The Ice-Breaker is directed by Collin Wilcox Paxton, Set Design and execution by Scott R. Paxton and John Roman, Lighting Design by Alan Snyder and Sound Design by Dave Hunter. The play will run April 10-12, 17-19. All performances are at 8 p.m. For reservations call the ITC box office at 828-342-9197. The Studio on Main is located at 310 Oak Square, Main Street, Highlands, NC.

nity 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.

• 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, 10 a.m. until noon. Call Barbara Buchanan at 526-1402 or Florence Flanagan at 743-2567.

First Mondays

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

Every Monday

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

Every Tuesday

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

• Weight Watchers meets at the Highlands

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

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

- Adult handbell rehearsals at Highlands United Methodist Church at 6 p.m. Ccall Carroll Harris at 526-3376.

- 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.

1st & 3rd Thursdays

- The local affiliate of NAMI NC (National Alliance on Mental Illness), NAMI Appalachian South, meets from 7- 9 p.m. at the Family Restoration Center, 1095 Wiley Brown Road, Franklin. NAMI offers peer support, education, and advocacy for individuals suffering from serious mental illness and their families and loved ones. Contact Ann Nandrea 369-7385, Carole Light 524-9769 or Mary Ann Widenhouse 524-1355 for more information.

Every Thursday

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

Every Friday & Saturday

- Live music at The Rib Shack every Friday and Saturday night from 7-10 p.m.

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

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21 rated PG-13

Mon – Thurs: (4:20), 7

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

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

DILLBIT TAYLOR rated PG-13

Mon – Thurs: (4)

Fri: (4), 9

Sat & Sun: (4), 9

DR. SUESS'

HORTON HEARS A WHO rated G

Mon – Thurs: 7

Fri: 7

Sat & Sun: (2), 7

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.

Every Saturday

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

- Children's classes ongoing at Bascom-Louise Gallery – cost is \$5 per student.

Wednesdays, April 2-May 7

- Sick and Tired of being sick and tired? The Macon County Cooperative Extension Service is offering a 6-week chronic disease self-management program to help you improve your health one step at a time. Wednesday mornings at the cooperative extension office 9:30 a.m. to noon. To register call Sherrie Peeler at 828-349-2046 or Mary Barker at 828-586-1962.

Wednesdays through May 14

- A series of seven classes covering the Principles and Elements of Design meets every Wednesday at the Highlands Rec Park from 1 to 4 p.m. Each class will include a brief informative introduction to an element or principle, a fun and quick exercise, and an art project using a variety of materials. Classes include instruction on a variety of painting and drawing materials, as well as Balance, Emphasis, Contrast, Proportion, Repetition, Rhythm and Harmony. call Donna Rhodes at 828.526.4949, 4#.

Thursday-Sunday, April 3-6

- The students of Highlands high school present "Get Bill Shakespeare Off the Stage" at PAC. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. and at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Directed by Ronnie Spilton and Jim Gordon of the Highlands Community Players. Tickets are \$5 for adults. Students are free.

Friday, April 4

- At The Bascom, a "Young Artist Program" which opens Friday from 5-7 p.m. and runs through April 12.

Saturday, April 5

- Highlands Volleyball Team Fundraiser, 9 a.m. until. Team of 6-8 — \$75, individual — \$12 (will be put on a team) Donations accepted. Best 2 out of 3 with a 45 minute time limit. High school rules — rally to 25, win by 2. Three men allowed per team. 1st and 2nd place prizes. Entry due by April 1. Call Lindsay Gearhart at 371-1017, or 787-1112.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 3-mile hike up Chimney Top Mtn. with an elevation change of 1200' and a 360 degree view on top. Near the summit the trail requires climbing on hands and knees in a couple of places. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10 a.m. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettle, 743-1079, for reservations.

- Benefit Bowling Tournament for Alan McGovern of McGovern Floors who is being treated for Melanoma Stage 3 skin cancer and has no insurance. A No-Tap Tournament at Franklin Lanes beginning at 1 p.m. Sign in is at 12:15 p.m. Entry fee is \$20 and all entry fee money will be donated to Alan for medical bills. 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes, \$200, \$100 and \$50, respectively. (Subject to change based on entries.) Call Cindy McGovern at 828-421-3934 with questions or donations for door prizes and raffles.

Sunday, April 6

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 3-mile hike along an old railroad bed next to the

Tallulah River as well as along some woods trails. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitors' Center on Hwy. 441 near Otto at 2 p.m. There is a small parking fee at Terrora Park. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820.

Tuesday, April 8

- The Highlands Botanical Garden invites you to volunteer a few hours of your time on Tuesday April 8, anytime between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. We will be preparing beds for summer by mulching, weeding, and planting. This is a great opportunity to become familiar with many of the native plants in the Highlands Botanical Garden, which is free and open to the public, year-round, from dawn till dusk. Stop by the Howell Administration Building at the Highlands Biological Station (6th street entrance, up the hill, 526-2602) and ask for the location of the day's projects. Please bring gardening gloves, sturdy shoes, outdoor clothing, food, water, and a sun hat. Rain cancels. We invite you to the Garden and ap-

preciate your help as we get ready for the 2008 summer season!

Wednesday, April 9

- High Mountain Squares will dance at the Macon County Community Building from 7-9 p.m.. Richard Smith of Gainesville, GA. will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344 or 706-782-0943.

Thursday, April 10

- League of Women Voters of Macon County presents the Macon County Commission primary candidate forum. The meeting will be held at Tartan Hall of the First Presbyterian Church in downtown Franklin. Lunch will be served at noon. Call 524-5192. The forum will start at 12:15. Questions for the candidates will be accepted.

'Performance' painting coming April 12

Nationally known artist, Jonas Gerard, will be presenting a "Performance Painting" at Summit One Gallery on April 12, 4 p.m. in the courtyard at "The Galleries." He will create a new work set to lively music and contagious enthusiasm. As seen on ABC's 20/20 in January Jonas loves to entertain. He has abounding energy. And that energy is infused into his canvases. His forceful, spontaneous manner and central core of energy are a lifeline for the artist. The



Artist Jonas Gerard

splashes of color create a spirited canvas and composition not easily forgotten. Since the 70s, it is this spirit, energy and consistency that brought him to the forefront of the national art scene.

Bringing to life the tradition of abstract expressionism, Gerard emerged 50 years ago into the art scene with work which has currently evolved into a mesmerizing explosion of color, contrast and movement. And like the great contemporary Masters; such as DeKooning, Pollock, Hoffman and Kline, Gerard has found his very own style of abstraction which is continuously growing and developing.

If you watch him paint, you can see the 'trusting' in his intuition. While mesmerizing music plays in the background,

he becomes completely absorbed in expressing what is in his heart with a gestural painting style that appears almost as a spontaneously choreographed dance. The strong rhythms and sounds of his music are instrumental in creating the daring space to transcend limitations and fears that may come up. To the viewer, it may seem that the painting is done by the music itself while the artist is simply holding the brush.

The passion and dedication to his work has brought him to the level he has achieved. His work has been exhibited and

collected nationally and internationally, in private and public collections. "We the People", a bicentennial portrait of the United States, is included in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Institution.

A reception, open to all, will

follow the "Performance Painting" at 5 p.m. This special pre-season exhibition of Jonas Gerard's New Works will continue through May 2.

Summit One Gallery, located in "The Galleries" on South Second Street, Highlands For more information, call 828.526.2673.



"Learn from the Shadows"

... SUBDIVISIONS continued from page 1

There are two retention ponds on site which will handle the normal flow that comes in from the stream and retain some water to be released at a slower rate during storm periods.

"They've gone beyond what they were required to do," said Town Planner Joe Cooley.

The ponds will be lined with rock once they are dredged and cleaned out now that construction is almost over. The subdivision is expected to be completely finished in six months.

James Tate, of Tate's Landscaping, said a sediment trap will be installed to make sure all silt is out of the water before it leaves the property via the stream.

At Wednesday's Town Board meeting, board members asked about an old plan suggested by Pesterfield on behalf of OEI concerning the re-configuring of the N.C. 28 and Fourth Street intersection at the subdivision.

A couple of years ago, OEI presented a plan that would make the intersection safer and greener. OEI offered to

pay for the project with the understanding that it would be reimbursed.

At the time, N.C. DOT said it had funds budgeted for such a project – grant money was also discussed – but the project would have to be a town project. The town was supposed to request the funding from N.C. DOT for the project. For some reason that never happened.

Now with the Satulah South final plat unanimously accepted by the Town Board, members would like to resurrect the intersection project. Pesterfield said he would speak to OEI officials to see if they would like to pursue the project at this time. Final plat approval also means the homes can be conveyed to potential owners.

Hardscrabble Cottages

A new cluster development at Hardscrabble off the Bowery Road was the subject of much discussion at the Planning Board meeting.

Years ago, the Hardscrabble subdivision was OK'd by the Town Board and all its other boards and committees.

Utilities – water and electric – were installed along the roadways of the subdivision – in anticipation of eventual construction on its lots.

Now, instead of dividing an 11.88-acre tract into 12 lots, developer/owner Eric Pierson has decided to make a development within a development – a small cluster development of five houses – on a single tract leaving 81.4% of it as green, open space designated as common area. As per Highlands' cluster ordinance 50% is required to remain green.

At first Planning Board members were surprised that a developer would opt to down scale what had been approved for other areas in the subdivision..

"Why not 12 homes?" asked board member Pat Taylor.

"That's all I want," said Pierson. He said the homeowners association can use the open space behind the houses for walking trails or "whatever they want" but as a cluster development the green space will stay forever green as dedicated space.

• See SUBDIVISIONS page 17

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... SUBDIVISIONS continued from page 16

Cooley said the green space will be conveyed with each of the five lots on their deeds so it can never be anything but green space.

Because the original subdivision had already been accepted by the town and all the roads, electric and utilities were already in and approved, Pierson was requesting both preliminary and final approval of the cluster development at the meetings.

This caused concern for several Planning Board members.

"I'm afraid we're setting a precedent if we approve this," said member Thomas Craig. "As a developer, I'm liking this, because we're saying it's OK to develop a piece of property, put all the electric and utilities in and then come and ask for a preliminary and final approval."

Usually a developer comes with a preliminary plan and a vision and once the infrastructure is in and OK'd by the Town Engineer, the final plat is approved.

In the case of Hardscrabble Cottages, the infrastructure was put in years ago, so the five cluster homes are tying into an existing, approved system. In addition, the county has already signed off on the septic fields needed.

"The preliminary work is already done, so he might as well ask for the final at the same time," said Chairman Griffin Bell. "But having no preliminary and asking for final plat approval at the same time may set a bad precedent because we have to be

consistent."

Cooley said the reason the boards didn't see the preliminary was because Hardscrabble wasn't broken off into phases like RiverWalk.

The plan to make a cluster development came after the fact and long after the subdivision and its infrastructure was OK'd by the town.

Cooley also said that it was the duty of the Planning Board to OK plats, not the time line. "Our code just says that the plat needs to meet all conditions, which it does," he said.

Town Administrator Richard Betz said that Nix had signed off on the roads, electric and utilities and they met town standards.

In the end, the Planning Board voted 4 to 3 to approve Hardscrabble Cottages preliminary and final plat at the same time.

Taylor said he didn't think this would set a precedent, because a developer who tries to build a new subdivision and jump to final approval without preliminary approval was taking a huge risk. "If it doesn't meet requirements he would have to stop and redo it," he said.

The Town Board voted unanimously to accept the preliminary and final plat Wednesday night.

"I think this is a great idea," said Commissioner Amy Patterson. "This is a huge amount of green space. That's what clustering is supposed to do."

... PAVERS continued from page 1

said.

Last year, the PAC parking lot was re-configured to include graveled, marked parking spaces, greenspaces and a small rain garden for stormwater runoff.

"The rain garden is too small and we need more parking, so I'm here asking if the board might consider putting more parking along Laurel Street that could be used during PAC performances and for overflow parking from the Rec Park and also funding an enlarged rain garden," she said.

She thought both extending the rain garden into a retention pond in the rear of the property and creating several parking spaces with grass pavers and sod would be a good demonstration site for stormwater runoff solutions. "We could see how well all this can work in Highlands," she said. The site had already been identified as a stormwater management project.

Town Engineer Lamar Nix said town crews could do the project which would likely cost between \$15,000 and \$18,000. Grass pavers and sod will primarily be used for the parking areas and paving, if any, could be included in the spring paving contract.

The town owns the PAC complex but PAC has funded recent renovations on its own.

Commissioner Larry Rogers, who is on the public works committee, moved to fund the project. It was seconded by Commis-

sioner Hank Ross and carried unanimously at the special March 24 meeting.

"Heart of the High Country"

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Cable Channel 14.



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The Visitor Information Program
airs at 7 am, 9 am, 4 pm, 6 pm,
9 pm, and 11 pm.

Upcoming Bascom exhibits showcase young artists

"Young Artists Program" and "Regional High School" exhibitions are featured showings for the month of April at The Bascom, a center for the visual arts.

The opening for the "Young Artist Program" exhibition is April 4, from 5 to 7 p.m. The exhibition runs through April 12. The weeklong display carries the theme, "Greatest Little Show on Earth."

"Artists, from pre-school to middle school, have worked all year to prepare this delightful presentation," said Donna Rhodes, The Bascom's education director. "Many adult professional artists work hard to achieve the spontaneity that children have naturally. Experience firsthand the magic of boundless creativity."

"The opening for the "Regional High School" exhibition is April 19, from 5 to 7 p.m. The exhibition runs through April 26. This annual offering is teeming with award-winning work by the region's finest up-and-coming artists. Many Western Carolina schools will participate in this exceptional event. Support our next generation of fine artists and craftspersons by visiting The Bascom.

The schedule and events calendar for 2008 is online at www.thebascom.org, or stop by the art center, inside the Hudson Library at 554 Main Street, to receive your 2008 program calendar and brochure. Classes are starting to fill, so reserve your space now.

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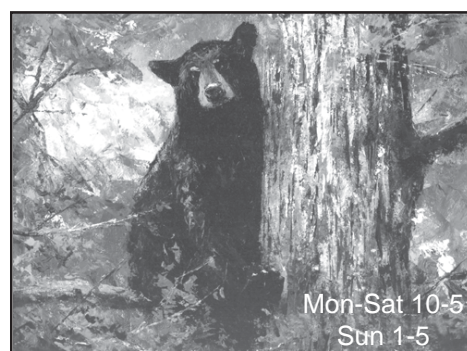
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highlandseditor@aol.com

• A REVIEW •

Parallel Lives answers call for something new and daring

Parallel Lives returned to the Studio on Main this past weekend to a packed house indicating the public wanted more.

More of what Parallel Lives I offered last year – snappy, witty, vignettes illustrating slices of American life not often portrayed on stage – at least not on a Highlands stage.

Coupled with Parallel Lives II was Graceland, a short comedy about two women who meet three days before Graceland opens for the first time.

Each woman – Carla Gates and Mary Bynum – both of whom have appeared in previous Instant Theatre Company (ITC) and Highlands Community Players (HCP) productions – claims the first spot in line and explains why it is so important for them to be the first one in the mansion.

What ensues is a peak into a segment of America society that is both poignant, funny and sad. As in Parallel Lives I, the second production addresses those taboo subjects like domestic abuse and abortion in a way that is both telling and darkly humorous.

“Disney Mom’s Therapy Group” featuring Disney’s cartoon characters’ mothers, who of course, are never seen in the movies, was really funny and exemplified this group’s ability to meld and deliver.

Breta Stroud who emerged last year on both the HCP and ITC stages, demonstrated that she can basically do it all – sing,



The daring cast of Parallel Lives II, Carla Gates and Bretha Stroud, Bonnie Earman, Jenny King, Diane Rossaza, Mary Bynum and not pictured: Ronnie Spilton, Sandi Trevathan, and Katie Cochran.

move and make you laugh all at the same time. Her vignette with Jenny King in “Cabaret,” and also in a solo pantomime performance were excellent.

Carla Gates seen most recently in HCP’s “Lend me a Tenor” has become somewhat of a scene stealer – but in a good

way.

Stay tuned for more Parallel Lives – directed by veteran Mary Adair Leslie. The word is another version is being considered for a longer run in July at the Studio on Main...the place to go for out of the box comedy and drama.

– **Kim Lewicki**

Students to present ‘Get Bill Shakespeare Off the Stage’

In what very likely will become a annual affair, drama-inclined students at Highlands School will present “Get Bill Shakespeare Off the Stage!” this week Thursday-Sunday at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street.

Working under the direction of Dr. Ronnie Spilton – an integral part of Highlands Community Players and an ex-high school principal – with the help of Jim Gordon, also of HCP, the cast of 15 has been put through its paces.

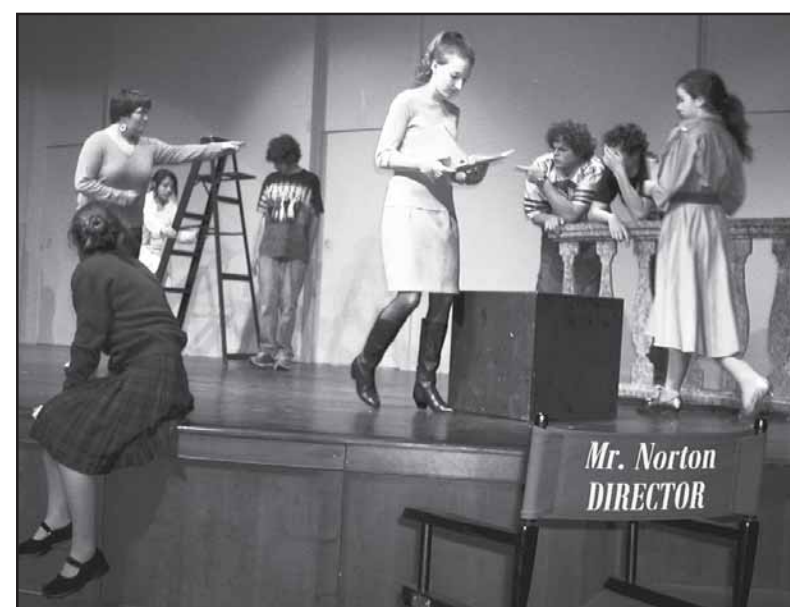
The result is sure to be a stellar affair representing a memorable start for what could become a bona fide drama club at Highlands School.

Cast members are Katie Pierce, Rachael Hedden, Matt McClellan, Amanda Parmalee, Adam Hedden, Sally Wheeler, Elizabeth Gordon, Shelbi Chastain, Avee Graham, Amy Fogle, Ezra Herz, Wyatt Stinson, Monserrath Reyes, Michael Grabe, Ash Gordon.

Helping with production are Kyle Lasiter, Sound/Lighting Design and Operation; Taylor Stinson, Stage Manager; C.T. Creighton, Backstage Crew; and Stuart Armor, Sound Operation.

Written by Joseph Robinette, Get Bill Shakespeare Off the Stage! is a comedy that

revolves around a new high school drama teacher, Miss Caldwell, who has taken the place of a retired teacher who always allowed his students to select the play they wanted, usually being a comedy or musical. Miss Caldwell steps in, and to her students’ dismay, presents them with



their new project – a series of Shakespearean scenes – where she hopes they will “shake hands with Shakespeare.” Horrified with the idea, the high school students rebel and plan to sabotage the production. In the end, the students gain an appreciation for Shakespeare as well as their new teacher.

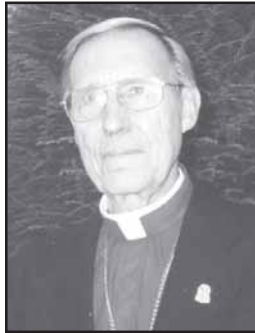
All evening performances – Thursday

through Saturday, April 3-5 are at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday’s matinee on April 6 is at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 for adults but free for students and are available at Highlands School, Cyrano’s Bookstore, and Brick Oven Pizza.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Who stole Easter?



+The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbeling
Senior Pastor, Chapel of Sky Valley
Sky Valley, Georgia

One of the better points of getting older is that you can legitimately say, "I remember when." I remember when the Easter vacation from school began the Thursday before Good Friday and was followed by a week off. Now it appears that Easter vacation for students has been replaced by a thing called "Spring Break." I don't know why the word "Easter" is no longer found in this vacation, but it isn't.

If it's part of political correctness, then I'm not for political correctness when it eliminates the greatest occurrence in the life of Christ. Spring Break has become an excuse for college students to leave home for warm and sunny vacation spots which are eager for their dollars and exploit the situation through elevated room rates. The college students (or should I call them "merry-makers?") celebrate this time of year not in the spirit of Easter but in the spirit of consumption. It would appear the more alcohol, the better. But I still ask, Who stole Easter?

In walking through a local mega-mart last week, I noticed the display set aside for this Easter holiday. It was a profusion of baskets containing everything from war toys to chocolate eggs, multi-colored plastic eggs, yellow marshmallow chicks, but mostly it was green plastic straw.

As hard as I looked through this display, I found not one reference to Easter as I remember it. I could not find one reference -- certainly not in chocolate -- of a Christ, of anything religious, expressing the real purpose of Easter.

I guess in the passage of time, we have so sanitized our lives that we deliberately avoid anything that may be challenging. We did that with Christmas, remember. Other than the displays of Christ in the manger in most churches and a few still-permitted public areas, we replaced Christmas with Santa Claus. Who could not like Santa Claus? What he has to do with Christmas in its true sense is far beyond me. Somehow we can't usher Easter in with the same fanfare we usher in Christmas. Macy's has not seen it fit to have a "Macy's Easter Day Parade." And anyway, Santa has a sled which is the very last thing to appear on Fifth Avenue in Macy's Parade. How outlandish would it be to think that at the end of the Macy's Day Easter Parade there may just be an empty cross! And yet I ask, Who stole Easter?

We have so many really good Christmas songs, popular because they really don't offend anyone.

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 22

• 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.

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: Dinner 5 p.m.-6 p.m.; 6 p.m. programs for all students; 6:15 p.m., Adult Bible Study

THURSDAYS: WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 10 a.m. EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Rev. Brian Sullivan - Rector: 526-2968
Sunday: 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, Parish Associate 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 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: Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion - 10:30
HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

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

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HELP WANTED

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE FOREMAN for a Highlands area company. Duties include overseeing yard maintenance for high-end properties. Chance to grow with company including bonuses and retirement. Call 828-526-8953.

WHY KNOT KNIT HIGHLANDS is seeking a manager for its knitting retail shop. Must be courteous, dependable and know how to knit. For more info, contact: Beki at #404-542-2904.

HIGHLANDS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE seeks a motivated, self starter who enjoys interacting with the public. Basic computer skills essential. For a part time position, 30 hours per week. Competitive wage with benefits. Please send resume to president@highlandschamber.org or fax to 828-526-5803.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH is accepting resumes for an Office Assistant. Computer skills, people skills and creative abilities are required. 828-526-4685 or office@cbchighlands.com

THE INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP CENTER OF HIGHLANDS, NC is seeking part time administrative assistant starting May 1, 2008. Applicant must have both written and oral Spanish knowledge, must be motivated and work well with others. Basic computer skills are necessary. Additional training will be given once applicant begins. For more information please call Jill at 828-526-9938 x 290.

SERVERS AND COUNTER HELP NEEDED at Sweet Treats, Highlands. Call 526-9822.

MAINTENANCE ENGINEER POSITION AVAILABLE at Hampton Inn/Highlands Inn. Year Round/Full time. Must have basic knowledge of electronics, plumbing, minor electrical and construction. Send Resume to P.O. Box 1060 Highlands, NC 28741 or email to info@hamptoninn-nc.com. Call Sabrina for interview 828-526-5899.

HOUSEKEEPER needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full time position available for days. 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 Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RNS 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 Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

EMERGENCY ROOM RNS needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. One Full-time and two Part-time positions available. 12 hour night shifts. Shift and weekend differentials. BCLS and ACLS required. 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 Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

DIRECTOR OF NURSING is needed in the beautiful mountains of Western North Carolina. Experienced nurse leader for a 24-bed Critical Access Hospital, responsible for managing a budget, quality of patient care, customer satisfaction, and the oversight of management for the Acute Care Unit (Med/Surg), ER, OR, PACU and GI Lab, Hospice, and Cardio-Pulmonary. Must be able to provide leadership for managers and staff, and conduct recruitment and retention activities. Masters degree with a background in nursing leadership required. This position reports directly to the CEO/President of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, working closely with the QA Nurse Manager and the VP of Operations. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full-time position with 8 and 12 hour shifts. Responsibilities include taking call and being able to respond within 20 minutes. Also must be able to intubate a patient. Current registration or certification in North Carolina, along with current BCLS and/or ACLS required. Experience with rehabilitation and disease prevention preferred. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full time position available Monday through Friday. Must be North Carolina certified. One year experience in hospital setting and CPR certification is preferred. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

CNA OR CNA II at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. Full-time, positions for night shifts. Our wage scale is \$11.00 to \$14.40 per hour, and you also receive shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of employment. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Human Resources, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

UNIT CLERK needed at Highlands Cashiers Hospital. Performs clerical duties and acts as receptionist for the nursing unit. Experience in a hospital setting preferred. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30

days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

WORK WANTED

RESPONSIBLE CAREGIVER - Available night shifts. (possible live-in) Call Clara at 828-342-1603 or 828-369-9812.

HOME DUTY SITTER available for elderly, caring, experienced with references. Please call for hours available and specifics. Denise - 369-3813

EXPERIENCED FINISH CARPENTER: Call Alfredo at 828-349-1590. You can also call the International Friendship Center to see how we can help! 828-526-9938 x 290

CLEANING OR RESTAURANT WORK WANTED: Contact Gloria at 828-371-5806. You can also call the International Friendship Center to see how we can help! 828-526-9938 x 290.

LOOKING FOR A HOUSEKEEPER? Call Dora at 828-200-1038. Call Janet at 828-399-9693 or 828-526-9709. Luz Maria at 349-2735. Cira at 349-1838. Erica at 864-886-9986. You can also call the International Friendship Center to see how we can help! 828-526-9938 x 290

EXPERIENCED TRUCK DRIVER SEEKS FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT: Call Mike at 828-524-4052. You can also call the International Friendship Center to see how we can help! 828-526-9938 x 290.

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RETAIL SPACE FOR LEASE, Hearthstone Center on busy Hwy 64 beside the old Hardee's, 2,052 sq ft, High visibility, Plenty of parking, Great retail location ready to be occupied, central heat & air, carpet, excellent condition, Busy shopping center, Call 828-243-2939 or 828-743-9454 for more information.

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RESIDENTIAL SPACE FOR RENT

DOWNSTAIRS APARTMENT with shared kitchen. one bedroom, living room, bathroom. Close to Town. \$700/mth, utilities included. Call 828-342-0157.

GREAT 3 BDR/2 BATH COTTAGE IN MIRROR LAKE AREA, less than 1 mile to town, front porch, back deck. Rents monthly for \$1200+utilities, call 770-977-5692. 4/3

ONE BR/ONE BATH FURNISHED APARTMENT close to town including all utilities except phone. \$750. Contact Tucker or Jeannie Chambers, The Chambers Agency, REALTORS. 828-526-3717.

1BED/1BATH 900sq.ft. \$825/month includes utilities.\$300 deposit. Unfurnished.Non-smoker preferred. Walking distance to town. (828)526-9494

3 BEDROOM-2 BATH APARTMENT on Main Street. 526-0388.

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 - \$750. monthly plus utilities. Call 526-

1684.

VACATION RENTAL

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

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

HOUSE FOR SALE IN WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath in adorable, quiet neighborhood 2 miles from ocean and Palm Beach Island and 5 miles from downtown. \$450,000. Call 561-379-9151. 7/31

MOTOR COACH SITE - DOWNTOWN HIGHLANDS. With Cedar shake Coach House. Gated. Private. Overlooks active stream. Short walk to shopping and dining. Located at the cor. of Fifth and Chestnut Sts. For all info. visit at your leisure: www.JTIMMS.com/HIDDENCREEK or contact owner directly at 828-526-5333.

LOTS FOR SALE - .85 AC lot off Turtle Pond. Backs to USFS. Views. \$30K; .90 AC lot, drive cut in. \$30k. 2-bed septic approved. Ready to build. New shared well for both. Call Ty at 828-577-9261.

LOTS FOR SALE IN SHELBY PLACE. \$110,000 each. Call 828-526-2874.

UPPER CLEAR CREEK ROAD AT CORNET LANE 1.20+ acres less than 4 miles to Main Street. Paved Access. Some winter views 3 sided corner lot has old logging road as your driveway. \$62,500 Call 526-9021 or 787-2307.

HOUSE FOR SALE (ISLAMORADA, FLORIDA) - Two bedroom, one and 1/2 bath conch house for sale at Mile Marker 86, near Founders Park on Ocean-side. 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.

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.

ITEMS FOR SALE

RADIAL SAW - Craftsman, 10-inch, model # 113.199200. Excellent condition. \$200. Call Fred at 828-743-6108

CLASSIFIEDS

XMRADIO car set up. \$25. Service paid through June 2008. No set up fee to transfer. Call Sandy at 524-7350 or 369-6263.

KODAK EASYSHARE DX6340 with printer dock 6000, camera case, all manuals and cables. \$50.00 Call Sandy at 524-7350 or 369-6263.

ANTIQUE FURNITURE: Medallion Back Sofa, Louis XV substyle. \$300. Matching Lady's and Gentleman's Chairs, \$400 set. Rocking Chair, Lincoln Type, upholstered. \$175. Sold separately or all for \$750. Call Sandy at 524-7350 or 369-6263.

FRENCH HORN Recently overhauled Conn 6-D double, excellent condition \$1,500. 828-526-2905 leave message

INDIANARTIFACTS - pre-historic arrowheads, private collection of about 50 points (in frame) \$250.00. Alex (828)332-0138

GREEN PRINT VELOUR SWIVEL ROCKER, new, \$250; blue stripe club chair w/ottoman, like new, \$175; large pine armoire, like new, \$200; Simms X-large waders w/attached boots, bought at Highland Hiker, used 3 times, \$250. Call Beatrice or Dennis at 743-5600.

OFFICE DESK FOR SALE. 30x60, dark oak finish, 6 drawers. \$150. Call Sandy at 369-6263 or 524-7350.

JEEP RIMS – 17-inch aluminum factory rims off 2005 Jeep Liberty 4x4. Brand new! Complete set of 4 \$800. Valued at \$265 each. Call 706-982-2254.

KING SIZE BEDROOM SET – Complete set includes two nightstands, two chest of drawers, large dresser with mirror. Like new. \$500. Call 706-982-2251.

PAIR OF DESIGNER WING BACK CHAIRS – Fabric with velvet trim. Neutral colors in Brown, cream/ gold muted \$375. Coordinating area carpet roughly 8 x 10 (can be cut to size) 526-4340 8-5

BARELY USED 30GB ZUNE VIDEO MP3 PLAYER. Comes with leather case. \$150 or best offer. Call Davis at 828-526-9152 for more information.

BALDWIN ACROSONIC PIANO Excellent condition. \$300. Call 743-5151.

TWO SIT-ON TOP KAYAKS. Orange. Paddles included. \$500 for both. Call Lisa at 770-842-3784.

THREE "HOUSE OF DENMARK" BOOKCASES -- walnut, 3' x 6', containing TV, tape player, turn table, radio/CD. Sold as an entertainment unit including 2 Advent speakers. \$550. Call 526-9273.

2 BATHROOM LAVATORIES with brass faucets; 1 water closet - all almond finish \$25.00 each; 1 steno chair - black with mustard color back and seat \$15. 526-2671

MISC. ITEMS – Play Station 2 \$75; Old Walt Disney movies (never opened); Indoor plants; Girls' bicycle; Collectible Basketball Cards (never opened). Call 526-9123.

SNOW TIRES For Ford Expedition 03-05 factory rims. Complete set of 4 only \$400. Size 17 x 75 J. Call Wolfgang at 526-8396.

POOL TABLE – Peter Vitalie 8' x 50" pool table, burl wood rails, upgrades leather pockets, new upgraded felt – oak in color – \$3,400. Table located in Cashiers, Call 770-313-0899.

BARBOUR COAT Burghley Duster. \$350. Call 526-9027.

MASSEY FERGUSON DIESEL DELUXE 35 WITH POWER STEERING. Completely rebuilt, repainted, new tires. Includes scrape blade, and an 8,000 lbs. tandem axle trailer. Sharp Package! \$7,500. Call (828)526-1684 and leave message.

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.

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

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.

KING-SIZE HEADBOARD, \$40; new glass fire-place 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

MEDICAL LIFT CHAIR – Used one week. Paid \$615, incredible deal at \$295. 526-5558.

ANTIQUE CHERRY DINING TABLE from Estate Sale. Double drop-leaf. Rope carved legs. Seats 4-10 people Extends to 4x10 ft \$1,500 obo 828-787-1515

DOG KENNEL. 10' x 10' x 6', heavy gauge chain-link. 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.

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

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

2002 ISUZU TROOPER LS — 71,000 miles with all the bells & whistles. \$8,795. Call 526-3262.

EUROPEAN CAR OWNERS – Most European manufacturers require synthetic oils and fluids in their vehicles. AMSOIL has a complete line of oil products to improve mileage and maintenance intervals. Synthetics last longer, reducing environmental waste. AMSOIL is proven #1 and does not void your warranty. Call Clay (828) 342-1603 or 828-369-9812. 4/10

1992 TOYOTA CELICA ST – White, AT, 164k, in good shape. Call 828-200-0465.

2002 TOYOTA LANDCRUISER, Blk/tan leather, NAV, wood-grain, 6 CD, 80,400 miles w/ ext. warranty to 116k miles. \$25,000. 770-965-6551

2003 VOLKSWAGON JETTA GLS SEDAN –

4-door, 5-speed, AC, Power Everything. Cruise, Premium Sound System, Moon Roof, Leather Seats, 85,000 miles. \$10,500. Call 526-3606.

2002 TOYOTA TACOMA TRUCK – Good Condition. 67,000 miles, new battery, wipers, tires. \$7,000. 828-526-2416.

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

SERVICES

CLOCK REPAIR – Antique or modern. Complicated antiques are my specialty. Experienced and dependable with house calls available. Call 706-704-9631 or visit my website at www.olderclockrepair.com. Joseph McGahee, clockmakder.

MILT'S LAWN SERVICE – Lawn mowing, weed eating, yard cleaning & light hauling. Call Bill at 828-524-8659 or Milton at 828-421-7919 or 828-369-3569. 4/10

FIREWOOD "Nature Dried" Call 526-2251.

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.

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 clean-up, gutter cleaning, under-brushing, tree removal, lot clearing, storm cleanup, rockwork, retaining walls, flowerbeds, firewood. 828-526-2251.

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.

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

BUSINESSES FOR SALE

HIGHLANDS RADIO SHACK! Own a successful year-round business on Main Street. Asking \$399,000. Call Thea or Chuck at 526-3350.

LOST

LOST DOG IN BUCK CREEK/SHORTOFF RD AREA. Australian Shepherd. Blue Merle. Female. No tale. No Collar. Needs seizure medicine. Reward. Call 704-560-2911 or 704-365-9614.

LOST DOG "SALTY" – Black and white female Lab mix. Medium-size. Missing from around Owl Gap Road on N.C. 106. Please call 828-526-4575.

LEGALS

Public Notice of the May 6, 2008 Primary Election

The Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2008 for all Federal, State, Judicial, Legislative

and County Offices. The Polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. To vote in this election you must be a registered voter of Macon County.

Registration Deadline:

Citizens that wish to vote in the 2008 Primary Election must be registered to vote by Friday, April 11, 2008. (G.S. 163-82.6(c)). Voters of Macon County who need to update, or make any changes to their information must also do this by the same date. This does include name changes, party affiliations changes, or address changes. Registration forms if submitted by mail must be postmarked or delivered in person by this day. Registration forms are available at the Macon County Public Library, Highlands Civic Center, Hudson Library in Highlands, Highlands Town Office, Macon County Public Health Center, and the Macon County Board of Elections Office.

Absentee Voting By-Mail:

Absentee voting will be allowed pursuant to G.S. 163-302(b). Absentee voting by mail begins on Monday, March 17, 2008 and will end on Tuesday, April 29, 2008 (G.S. 163-230.1 (a2) (3)). These requests may be made in person at the Macon County Board of Elections Office or the voter may request an application by writing to the Macon County Board of Elections at 5 West Main Street, Franklin NC 28734. All requests must include the name, address, party affiliation (due to this being a Primary Election) date of birth of the voter and must be signed by the individual voter. If the voter is unable to request an absentee by mail or in person a near relative may also request an absentee ballot using the same format as listed above, and must also include the relationship to the voter, and the near relative's contact information. (Near relative includes: spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, stepparent, or stepchild). All absentee voted ballots must be returned to the Macon County Board of Election Office by Monday, May 5, 2008 (G.S. 163-231(b)). These ballots must be received by mail, commercial courier service, in person by the voter, or by the voter's near relative 5:00 p.m. on this day.

One-Stop Voting:

One-Stop Absentee Voting will begin on Thursday, April 17, 2008 (G.S. 163-227.2) and it will end on Saturday, May 3, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. One-Stop Voting will be available at the Macon County Board of Election Office. The Board of Elections office is located on the 1st floor of the Macon County Courthouse. The hours for One-Stop voting will be Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and in addition to regular office hours the office will also be open on Saturday, April 19, Saturday, April 26, and May 3, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. One-Stop Voting will only be held during these hours, if you do not vote Absentee By Mail or One-Stop you must go to your polling location on Election Day to cast your vote. In-Person One-Stop Registration is for resident that have missed the deadline for voter registration. A resident must fill out a voter registration application and prove residency by providing appropriate identification with current name and current address. In-Person One-Stop Registration is ONLY for ONE-STOP voters, this process is NOT allowed on Election Day.

If you have any questions regarding election matters you may contact our office at 828-349-2034 or visit our web site at www.maconnc.org/elections

Sara R. Waldroop, Chairman
Macon County Board of Elections
3/20, 3/27, 4/3, 4/10

YBOA's Lady Titans



The Youth Basketball of America (YBOA) traveling basketball team, Lady Titans is made up of girls from five different schools and two different states. The team will be playing in five more tournaments during April and May. Back row from left: Jennifer Warner (coach), Deana McCall (Tuscola), Brie Schmitt (Highlands), Jennifer Savage (Rabun County), Grace Rogers (Rabun County), Bethany Wright (Rabun County), Mariah Cousineau (Rabun Gap), Coach Brett Lamb, Nikki Winn (Towns County) Front Row from left: Ellie Parton (Towns County), Rabun Wright (Rabun County), Taylor Buras (Highlands), Stephanie Smart (highlands), Marlee McCall (Highlands) Center floor: Cole Lamb. The team won second place in the 11th Annual Tennessee Mountain Jam held March 16-17 at the YBOA Tournament held in Sevierville Tennessee.

• MIRROR LAKE REFLECTIONS •

Canoes must be moved

The old adage warns "Be careful what you wish for!" I few months ago we were all wishing for rain and we got it!

Plans for paving three state roads in our area is set to begin in June. In anticipation of this, all canoes stored at the Mirror Lake Bridge must be moved from the state property by June 1. Heavy equipment will be using the space. If you have family or friends who may not be aware of them, please let them know.

It's yard cleaning time, but please don't dispose of your brush on your neighbor's property. Since the town rubbish collectors can't pick this up, the brush, bagged or loose, should be taken to the landfill on Rich Gap Road.

The bears are waking from their winter naps and they are hungry. Since the berries aren't out yet, they will be rummaging

through trash bins full of goodies. Please don't put your barrels out until the morning of your collection or take your refuse to the recycling center if you're not going to be here on your collection day.

If the tulips and daffodils don't drown during the heavy rainy period, the park should look very pretty in a few weeks. We hope to work soon on the rock wall there.

Hopefully in the next few weeks, the swans will start looking for a nesting place. Once they decide on a spot, the gent will begin to be protective and after the lady starts nesting, be careful not to canoe too close to them.

The next Mirror Lake Association meeting is April 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Civic Center. Hope to see you there.

- Elaine Johnson

... HIS & HERS continued from page 6

A human who is going to lay there like a lump for hours on end? Humans as furniture! They curl up and snooze, waking up only briefly to trot downstairs, refuel (and defuel), and trot back upstairs, resuming their places. The quiet of the room is broken only by the sound of loud purring (in stereo!) or the gentle wheezing of snoring cats. It is a scene that ranks right up there on the cute scale, and is almost worth feeling miserable for. Almost.

The grass is beginning to grow again, with green shoots starting to come up in our lawn again. A fat furry creature – a woodchuck? – has made his appearance, waddling across our yard, and then scurrying toward the barn when he hears us coming home in the car. During the winter, I spied a coyote, and two foxes – one grey, one red – but I haven't seen them since. We have two old bird nests – and I think from the chirping that their tenants have renewed their leases.

Each long car ride reminds me what a simply gorgeous part of the world this is! Even the highways are bursting with

color, with the roadsides blanketed in flowers. Some folks at the North Carolina Department of Transportation must have the souls of poets, and I thank them every time we enjoy the benefits of their Wildflower Project. The array of flowers blooming beside the roads is a joy to behold.

I rarely think about New York, except in passing. While watching a television program or other, I sometimes recognize the filming locations, but without any nagging nostalgia. I'm where I'm supposed to be. My heart is in Highlands. I saw my first butterfly the other day. And while I haven't yet seen my first bee of the season, I've already got my Honey.

About the Author: Michelle A. Mead is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She lives on top of a mountain near Highlands. Michelle is a member of the Highlands Writers Group. She is blooming where she is planted.

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 19

They're sappy and sweet and engender visions of sugarplums, men in red suits, reindeer, and all the world becomes a Currier and Ives winter portrait. I guess it would be too startling to hear our well-known Easter hymn, *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*, blared out in our malls as we hear all the secular Christmas songs when that season is about.

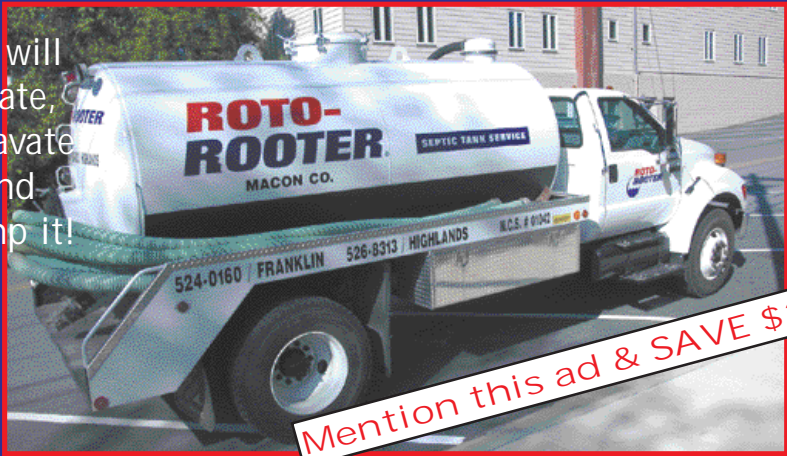
I guess there really aren't any Easter songs that have ever made the top 10 list like *I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas* as Bing Crosby did years ago. As I remember, no one made a fuss about that. No one seemed to care that

it was about Christmas. It was just a song about nostalgia and possibly homesickness for the way things were.

Who stole Easter? No one did. You can't steal something that we seem to have joyfully given away. In the name of political correctness, we seem to have erased all that is traditional, all that is spiritual, all that is holy, in the name of not offending anyone. But may I correct myself. Maybe we have offended someone. Maybe that someone is God. Maybe we should rethink what we are doing. Maybe the thief all the time has been us.

7 Days A Week 24 Hours A Day...Even Holidays

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Roto-Rooter Plumbing & Drain Cleaning of Highlands and Cashiers now offers septic tank pumping, drain field cleaning and septic field location.

Think your drainfield needs replacing?

The majority of drainfield problems occur due to build up in the drain lines. Roto-Rooter can clean lines, saving you thousands of dollars when compared to replacing lines.

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POLICE, FIRE, & SHERIFF DEPT. LOGS

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the weeks of March 27-31. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

March 27

- At 9:25 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Horse Cove and Bowery roads.
- At 11:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at U.S. 64 east and Sherwood Lane.

March 28

- At 3:42 p.m., officers responded to a 911 hang up from a residence on South 3rd Street.
- At 7:25 p.m., a motorist at N. 4th Street and Carolina Way was cited for speeding 42 mph in a 25 zone.

March 31

- At 8 p.m., a motorist at U.S. 64 east and Fourth Street was cited for failing to stop at a stop sign and for driving with an expired registration.
- During the week officers issued 2 warning ticket.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of March 26-April 2.

March 26

- The dept. responded to a vehicle accident on N. 4th Street. There were no injuries.

March 27

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

March 29

- The dept. responded to an alarm set off by workers at a residence on Crescent Trail.
- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers to extinguish a structure fire.

April 1

- The dept. responded to the call of a possible fire at a residence on the Dillard Road, but it was just something burning on the stove.
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on the Dillard Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on the Wilcox Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

April 2

- The dept. responded to a vehicle fire on U.S. 64 west and Goldmine Road.

The following is the Macon County Sheriff Dept. log entries for the Highlands Township for the week of March 28.

March 28

- At 8:20 p.m., deputies responded to a call of damage to a

community laundry facilities on Ashwood Downs where windows and lights were broken with a mop. Estimated damages are \$375.

- At 6:30 p.m., deputies responded to a call of vandalism to a vehicle in the Buck Creek Road parking lot where rocks were thrown at a hood of a car. Estimated damages are \$100.

• OBITUARY •

Stephen Hart Pierce

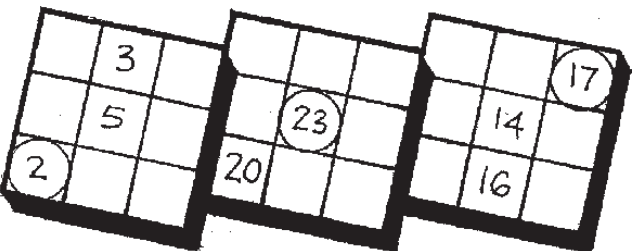
Stephen Hart Pierce, 58, died April 1, 2008 at his home. He is preceded in death by his parents, Sterling Blackwell Pierce and Josephine Hobart Pierce. He is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Sterling and Marjorie Pierce of Mount Olive, N.C. and Blowing Rock, N.C., one nephew, one niece and his partner of 25 years, Jeremy Wilcox Carroll.

Hart was a good friend, a free spirit and a kind soul. Those who knew him bid safe journey, beloved friend.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. An online obituary is available by visiting www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

• FUN & GAMES •

PseudoCube®



BZ3D - Level of Difficulty - Simple

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.

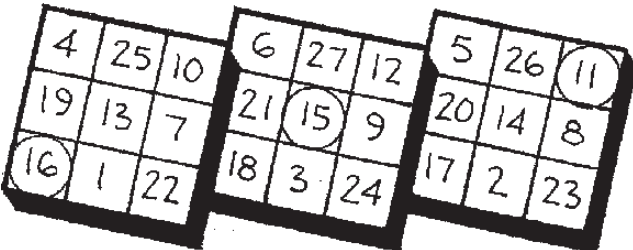
THE CHALLENGE:

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 #AZ2D in March 27 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

"Ladies' under/outer garment"

Across

1. Bean type (3)
2. Rubber tube (4)
3. Negative (3)
4. ____ or off (2)
5. Dog's yelp (3)

Down

6. Choose (3)
7. Hot or iced beverage (4)
8. Eat (past tense) (3)
9. Utter (3)
10. Head dress (3)

A ⁶			T				N	
	P		S				T	
	⁷	S			A	H		
H			⁸ A		O	Y		P
	A			Y ²			⁹ S	
Y		O	E		N			¹⁰ H
		E ³		T	P			
⁴	N		Y				H	
T ⁵				H				S

Solution to March 27 puzzle

H	C	P	E	A	I	M	W	R
I	E	R	M	H	W	A	C	P
M	A	W	R	P	C	I	H	E
E	R	M	A	I	H	C	P	W
W	H	I	P	C	R	E	A	M
C	P	A	W	E	M	R	I	H
A	W	H	C	M	E	P	R	I
R	M	C	I	W	P	H	E	A
P	I	E	H	R	A	W	M	C

Find It All On This Map

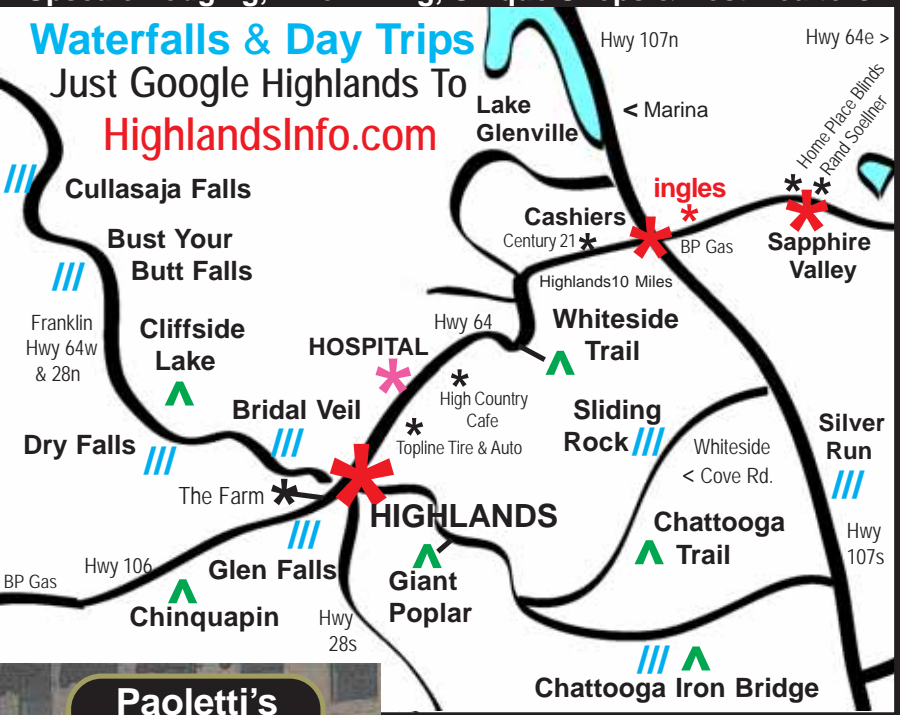
HighlandsInfo.com - #1 Directory For 5 Years

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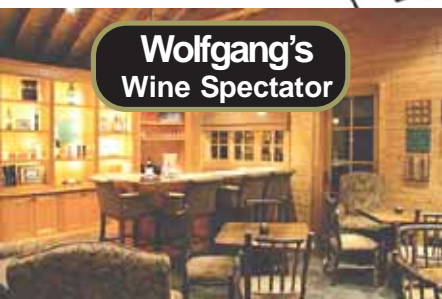
Waterfalls & Day Trips

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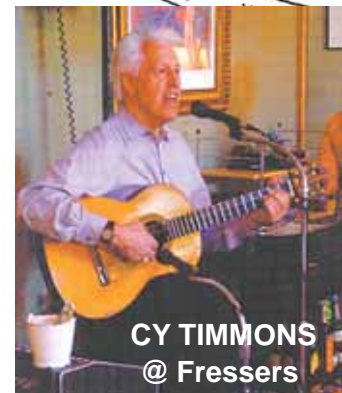
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DINING	Shopping	Real Estate
1 Cyprus	1 Acorns	1 Century 21
2 Fressers	2 AnnaWear	2 Country Club
3 Log Cabin	3 Bear Mt. Outfit.	3 John Cleaveland
4 Madison's	4 Chintz Antiques	4 John Schiffli
5 Nick's	5 Dry Sink	5 Meadows Mtn.
6 Oak St Cafe	6 JacksonMadeleine	
7 Paoletti	7 Raspberry Fizz	Galleries
8 Pescado's	8 Silver Eagle	1 Bryant Art Glass
9 Rib Shack	9 Shiraz Rugs	2 Tino Gallery
10 Sports Page	10 Village Kids	3 Twigs
11 Wolfgang's	11 Wholesale Down	4 Scudders
		5 Summit One

2008 Highlands Map

Performing Arts Center

"Get Bill Shakespeare off the Stage"

3,4,5 @ 7:30pm 6 @ 2:30pm

By The Highlands School



Madison's
Wine Spectator



Live Music at
The Rib Shack
Fri. & Sat.
7-10 p.m.

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