

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 6, Number 7

PDF Version – www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Feb. 14, 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, Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.

Every Monday

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

Every Wednesday

• Adult handbell rehearsals at Highlands United Methodist Church at 6 p.m. If you're interested call Carroll Harris at 526-3376.

• Gospel of John Bible Study Pastor Todd Struble is leading a study this spring on the fourth Gospel (using the Efid Bible Study Series) Wednesday Supper begins at 5:30 with the Bible Study at 6:15 - 7:15.

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

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.

Fri.-Sat., Feb. 15-16

• ITC LIVE!, and playing every Friday and Saturday night at 8 p.m. in February. For tickets call at 828-342-9197.

Saturday, Feb. 16

• Hot Dog Supper, Blue Grass Music and Raffle at the Salolah Fire Dept at 5 p.m. to benefit for Junior and Margie Crowe.

• Free Health Tracks Mini Fair at the Highlands Civic Center from 10:30 am. to 1 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 19

• HIARPT morning discussions are 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center with lunch to follow for those interested.

Wednesday, Feb. 20

• Spring Soccer Registration at Highlands Recreation Park from 5-7 p.m. Cost is \$40 for fall registered players, \$50 for new or non-registered players. Call Christy Weller at 526-9931 for more information.

Thursday, Feb. 21

• Health Tracks Open House, featuring a light buffet lunch to kick-off its new Heart Smart and mini fair at Highlands Civic Center from noon to 2 p.m. For more information on the month's events, call HealthTracks at (828) 526-1FIT (1348), Monday through Friday during regular business hours.

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
52-33°F	50-32°F	40-30°F

PB hammers out parking regulations

At a special meeting Monday, Feb. 11, the Planning Board solidified a proposed amendment to the town's parking ordinance.

Town Planner Joe Cooley presented draft amendments to the ordinance for two scenarios – Credit of On-Street Parking or

Public Parking Lots and Credit for Dual-Use Parking.

Because setting up Dual-Use Parking contracts between two private entities and the town would involve a lot of work and require the services of a certified traffic engineer whose report

could take up to a year to compile, Planning Board members focused on businesses sharing public parking instead.

At two previous meetings, both at the Town Board and last month's Planning Board, Cooley

• See PARKING page 12

Jury awards Northland damages

HCG says it will appeal

After hearing five days of testimony and arguments in Northland Cable TV versus Highlands Cable Group LP (HCG) in Macon County civil court last week, a jury ruled in favor of Northland Cable.

The jury ruled that the plaintiff, Northland Cable was entitled to recover \$379,376 in damages due to trespassing by HCG on Northland's property. "Property" is considered the space on poles Northland is entitled to occupy as per its pole attachment agreement with Duke Power, as well as its "physical" lines and other equipment.

The jury was asked to rule on two questions – what amount of damages the plaintiff was entitled and whether Northland trespassed on HCG property. The jury ruled Northland didn't trespass.

Prior to the jury's verdict, HCG attorney Zeke Sossomon, of Highlands, objected to the questions put to the jury prior to entering the jury room.

He argued that Northland's request for an injunction to stop further interfering by HCG had been granted so damages shouldn't come into the scenario. Judge Dennis Winner said the injunction had nothing to do with repair costs Northland will incur when it repairs damage to its property.

Sossomon also said there is

• See NORTHLAND page 9

Basketball season nears end



The young Highlands School Varsity Boys basketball has had a tough season playing against more experienced teams, but they're showing much promise for next year. For the latest game stats see page 17.

Photo by Noel Atherton

School facilities plan attacked at MC Commission meeting

During the public session portion of Monday's Macon County Commission meeting, commissioners learned of the formation of a new grassroots organization called "Citizens for Community Schools and Quality Education."

Guy Gooder, founder of the organization, said the purpose will be to investigate the need to close

and expand area schools.

"In keeping with the Macon County School Board's interest in building partnerships with stakeholders in the school system, all community members are invited to join in expressing their views about the future of our schools," reads the flyer he distributed. "All of us want the best education for

• See SCHOOL page 9

TDCs to dole out room tax proceeds

The county commission accepted the Occupancy Tax Committee's recommendation Monday night, but acknowledged there is still work to do.

"I think we should accept these recommendations in concept but we still need to discuss how to form the Tourism Development Commissions (TDCs)," said Commissioner Brian McClellan.

Commissioner Bob Simpson, who chaired the Occupancy Tax Committee with McClellan, said there were a lot of legal issues County Attorney Lesley Moxley must also address.

Occupancy Tax Committee member Mike Gruberman, Franklin town planner, represented the committee and presented its recommendations to the board.

As of July 1, 2008, three separate TDCs representing Highlands, Franklin and Nantahala, respectively, will be the agencies through which occupancy tax proceeds will be disbursed.

Currently, the chambers of commerce in Highlands and Franklin receive all the money.

"That will change," said Commissioner Simpson. "No longer will the chambers of commerce be responsible for the money," he said. "Now the chambers and anyone else promoting tourism can go to the TDCs for money."

Gruberman said the committee agreed that local control, in-

• See ROOM TAX page 5

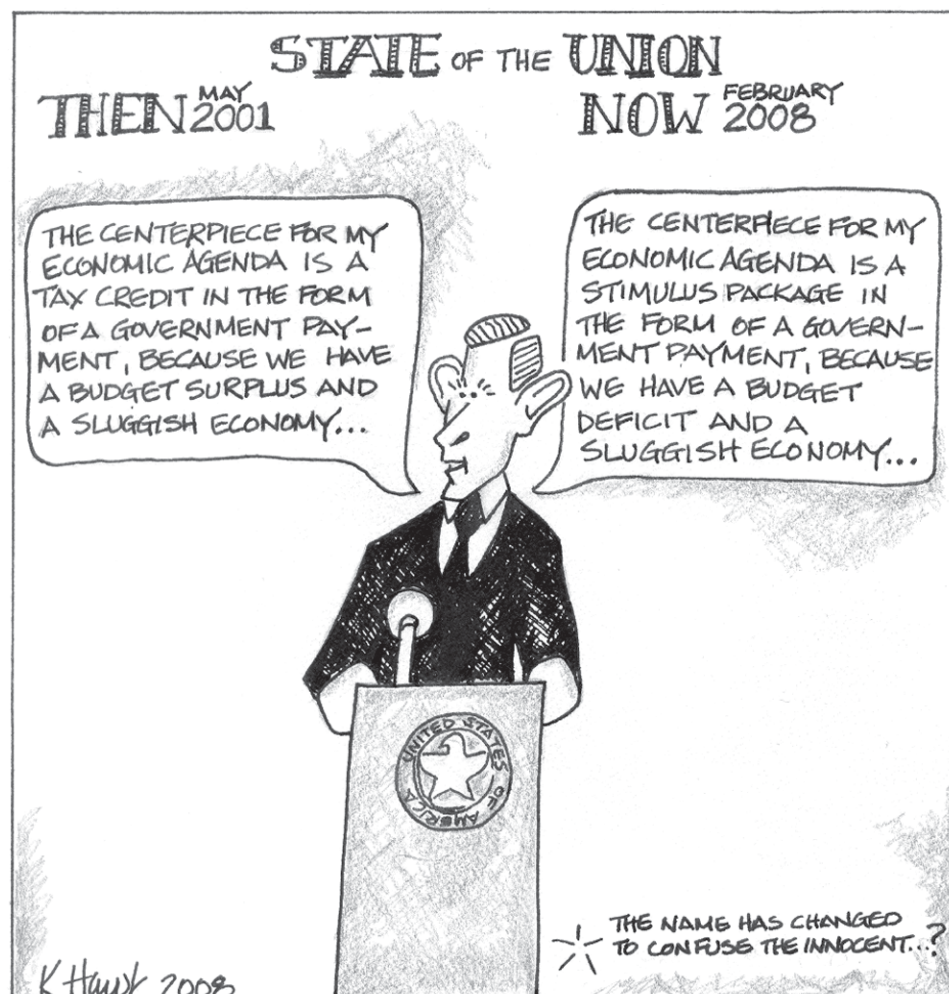
• Inside •

Obituaries	3
Wooldridge	4
Another View	5
From Turtle Pond	6
His & Hers	7
Conservative POV	13
Classifieds	18
Upcoming Events	20
Police, Fire, Sheriff	27

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •

• LETTER •



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

"Our Community Service - A Free Local Newspaper"

Member N.C. Press Association

FREE every Thursday; circulation 7,500; 100+ distribution points

Toll Free FAX: 866-212-8913 • (828) 526-0782

Email: HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor - Kim Lewicki Cartoonist - Karen Hawk
Reporter - Sally Hanson Circulation & Digital Media
Copy Editor - Tom Merchant Jim Lewicki



Adobe PDF version at www.HighlandsInfo.com

265 Oak St.; P.O. Box 2703, Highlands, N.C., 28741

All Rights Reserved. No articles, photos, illustrations, advertisements or design elements may be used without permission from the publisher.

Shuler solution not sensible

Dear Editor,

We The International Friendship Center writes to voice our strong concerns with H.R. 4088 and S. 2368, the Secure America through Verification and Enforcement Act ("SAVE" Act). However, The International Friendship Center advocates for sensible reform of our nation's immigration laws to better serve both the economic and national security needs of the United States.

This legislation, introduced by Representative Heath Shuler and others, does not provide the appropriate framework. We support enforcement and a fast, accurate and reliable employment verification system within the context of comprehensive immigration reform.

Representative Shuler's recent mailing states his position on increased enforcement and expanded employee verification without mentioning the full impact this law would have on local businesses.

The status quo is clearly unacceptable, exposing employers to unfair liability and worker shortages under a dysfunctional system and a growing patchwork of state and local laws. The SAVE Act addresses only the enforcement side of the immigration equation and, with respect to work-site enforcement provisions, we have serious concerns including:

- Immediate addition of at least one million employers and about a third of the workforce into the Basic Pilot/E-Verify program no later than one year after enactment (this includes federal contractors, federal agencies, and employers with over 250 employees), without any testing or revamping of the program.
- Re-verification of entire existing workforce within four years of enactment, which will be an enormous administrative burden on employers and employees. These employees have already been found to be authorized to work under current law.
- A new requirement that the Social Security Administration (SSA) must issue a "no match" letter to every employer with one or more employees that have provided information which does not correspond with information in the SSA database. Upon receipt of an SSA no-match letter, employees only have 10 business days to resolve issues before the employer must terminate the worker — even the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) final rule gave 90 days after receipt to correct a problem. This provision presumes the employee guilty before innocent despite the well-known inaccuracies that have been documented in the SSA database, and the common reasons for a no-match letter such as a typo, name change, or mistake.
- There are no benchmarking provisions to ensure that DHS and SSA assess the accuracy of their databases and correct problems before or even during the rollout out of the program.
- There is no timeframe given for DHS to give a final non-confirmation/confirmation.

• See LETTER page xx

Church demolition and construction to take up 25 parking spots this year

Very soon 25 parking spaces on Church and Fifth streets will be blocked to traffic for about 12 months.

At the Feb. 6 Town Board meeting, commissioners quickly OK'd McCarroll Construction's request to fence off parking spots adjacent to the First Presbyterian Church property on Church and Fifth streets for staging and safety purposes.

Crews are about to demolish the old Fellowship Hall and will build a new building in its place.

Terry Davis, with McCarroll, said a chain-link fence will be erected around the site along the parking areas.

He said over the course of a year and depending on the construction stages, 5-

30 workers will be on site. "We hope any out-of-town workers will come in one vehicle but we plan on using as many local workers as we can," he said.

He said he expects the construction workers to park within the blocked off areas with overflow parking on Pine Street.

He also asked permission for a construction trailer to be housed on several of the spots. There was no mention for the need of a temporary encroachment right-of-way permit from the town.

Commissioners Dennis DeWolf and Hank Ross admitted to being architects on the project and Mayor Don Mullen is the associate pastor of First Presbyterian Church.

— Kim Lewicki

• OBITUARY •

Dr. Carlton Cuyler Hunt

Dr. Carlton Cuyler Hunt, died in Highlands, on February 8, 2008 at the age of 89. Born in Waterbury, Connecticut, the son of Adele and Carlton Hunt, he was educated at Columbia University and received his M.D. from Cornell University Medical College in 1942. After completing an internship in medicine at New York Hospital, Dr. Hunt served three years during W.W.II as an army medical officer in Europe. On returning to New York in 1946, he continued his medical training and then entered the field of medical research. After a fellowship at John Hopkins, he was invited to join the Rockefeller Institute in 1952. Three years later, Dr. Hunt was appointed professor of physiology at the Albert Einstein School of Medicine.

In 1957, he became head of Physiology at the University of Utah where he attracted an outstanding faculty of young scientists. Seven years later, he accepted the chair of physiology at the Yale School of Medicine. In 1967, he became head of the Department of Physiology at Washington University and served in that position for 16 years. More than a dozen of his recruits later became department chairmen in their own right.

Dr. Hunt's major research contributions were the first clear demonstration of the motor innervation of muscle spindles and subsequent studies on the spinal cord and the motor and sensory innervation of muscle. On retiring as department head in 1983, he spent four years doing research in Paris at the College de France. He was professor emeritus of physiology at the University of North Carolina and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Hunt is survived by sons Carl, Steve (Jeanne), and Marc (Carrie); wife Marion, son Nicholas (Lisa) and daughter Amanda; six grandchildren, Frances, Dana, Rebekah, John, James, and Emily; and two great-grandchildren, Elyse and Ava.

Services will be held at the Church of the Incarnation in Highlands, N.C. on Feb. 16 at 2 p.m. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



465 Main Street
Highlands, North Carolina

European and American Antiques
Gifts and Home Accessories
Designer Women's Apparel
Jewelry, Handbags and Scarves



Valentine's Sale

Jewelry 20% – 75% Off
Bath & Body Products 30% Off
Ladies Clothing 25% – 75% Off
Free Gift Wrapping



Marie Belle Chocolates Trunk Show
February 14th – 17th

828.787.1877
Open Everyday Including Sunday
www.acornsonline.com

© OWNED AND OPERATED BY OLD EDWARDS HOSPITALITY GROUP, LLC



APPAREL

Now Open for
our 21st Season!
Featuring our
same great lines
Come see
our Fun
Line of
Sweaters
and
Coats &
more!

Hard Tail • Junk Food
Citizens of Humanity • Split
Necessary Objects
Project E
Free People • True Religion
Michael Star Tees

355 Main Street
in The Galax Theatre
526-4660

**VILLAGE
KIDS**



**Children's Apparel
and shoes
Sizes 0-16**

In the middle of Main • 526-5799

Cashiers
828-743-7999
866-480-7653

Mountain Lifestyles
www.highlandscashiersrealestate.com

Highlands
828-787-2121
866-407-2121


OPEN HOUSE
Tuesday, Feb. 19th 10 a.m. to noon
Pinebrook Condos



2 in-town
units for sale.
Unit 12 and
Unit 16A.
\$189,000
each.
2 bedrooms,
2 baths.
Fireplace.
Nice porch.

Directions: Main Street in Highlands to Fifth Street.
Pinebrook Condos on the left.

SAVE EVERYDAY with the Northland Bundle!



TV & Internet

NO contract required • NO equipment to buy
LOCAL customer service • LOCAL technical support

STARTING AT

\$79.99

PER MONTH FOR 2 MONTHS

ENJOY:

- Crystal-clear TV rain or shine including ALL your LOCAL channels at no additional cost
- Consistently FAST and ALWAYS-ON high-speed Internet, saving you time taking care of what you need online



Call (828) 526-5675 TODAY!

479 South Street • Highlands, NC 28741 • www.northlandcabletv.com

\$79.99 promotional bundled package price based on discounts from the standard prices. Discounts valid for 60 days. Prices subject to change. Standard rates apply after 60 days. Offer valid for new cable TV and Internet customers only. Franchises fees, taxes, installation and equipment fees not included. May not be available in all areas. Some restrictions may apply.



He bought you WHAT from Twigs?
What a GREAT Valentine's!

TWIGS

"Everything for your Nest"®

at

Highlands Edge

Furniture, accessories, gifts & more!

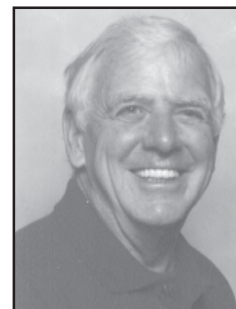
Hours: 9-6 Mon.-Sat. • Sun. 10-5

Cashiers Road about one mile from town. • 526-5551

• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Short Stories

If these stories were fiction, they wouldn't be as much fun, but they are true stories that I think you will enjoy because they really happened. I have only changed some names to hide identities.



Fred Wooldridge

•
**Feedback
is encouraged!
email:**

askfredanything@aol.com

Summer of 1962:

Prior to Dade County taking over many municipal functions, my police department had its own jail facility on the third floor of the police building. Inmates were mostly vagrants, drunks and petty thieves because felons were shipped to county jail. Officers too old for the street or those who were being punished for minor misconduct, along with volunteer officers, were assigned to work in the jail.

Darryl Jenkins was a not so bright officer who was always in trouble. He was working the midnight shift in the jail and fell asleep at his desk around 5 a.m. One of the jail's trustees swiped the jail keys from his desk and opened all the cells, releasing 22 prisoners. They quietly snuck down the fire escape and ole Darryl never woke up until the morning sun shown in his eyes.

You can imagine his surprise when he found every jail cell open and not a prisoner in sight. He looked at his watch and knew civilian employees would be delivering breakfast at any moment. Darryl raced down the hallway to the fire extinguisher and unscrewed the large brass nozzle from the fire hose. He grabbed a spare set of keys from his desk drawer and ran into an open jail cell, locking himself in. Then he threw the jail keys down the hallway and started hitting himself over the head with the fire nozzle, drawing blood. (Could I make this up?) Then he threw the nozzle down the hall just as the elevator door opened and breakfast arrived. Darryl dropped to the floor and pretended to be unconscious.

It would have all worked with everyone feeling sorry for Darryl being overpowered by the trustees except when we began to round up the 22 prisoners, they all told the exact same story. How do I know all the details of this event? Ole dumb Darryl confessed.

On going: I am an usher for Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church and, as part of my duties, I take the collection baskets to the church office. Sometimes the office door is locked and

I can't get in. I have been instructed to hide the money in the church's kitchen freezer but I hate doing that because I feel like such a Democrat. I could stuff the money in my pocket, but then I'd feel like a Republican.

Thanksgiving Day:

Our entire family had gathered for a Thanksgiving celebration. In the hustle and bustle of getting food on the table, someone noticed one of two large baskets of warm sesame rolls left sitting on a small

side table was now empty. A search for the rolls turned up nothing and the grandkids swore they knew nothing. My youngest son accused Alex, my daughter's Cocker Spaniel, of eating the rolls. My daughter was insulted and said, "Alex is a retired show dog and is so disciplined I could sit a plate of food on the floor in front of him and he would wait for permission to eat it. Alex most definitely did not eat the rolls."

After dinner and dessert, my son approached my daughter again, this time holding Alex in his arms. He lifted the dog's floppy lips revealing several sesame seeds still glued to his jowls; so much for disciplined show dogs.

Hurricane season in the old days:

Years ago, police managers were not as sharp as they are today. For example, they made us ride around in our squad cars in the thick of the hurricane and, in a matter of hours, our tires were flat. Duh! We just cruised the streets with flat tires.

Once, during a severe hurricane, a plate glass window from Burdine's Department Store blew out and a gorgeous blond mannequin with long flowing hair and wearing an evening gown sailed across the street, hitting our windshield, startling my partner and I.

We scooped her up, sat her in the front seat between us and paraded her in front of our fellow officers who did double takes as we passed. Finally, we were pulled over by our sergeant and made to throw her out into the stormy night. Aaaaa, I still remember that plunging neckline and those ruby red lips. She was a cutie!

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

• ANOTHER VIEW •

Senator Clinton recently described herself as a workhorse, not a show horse. OK, so I get mail from both Democrats and equestrians on this one.

I have no problem with the Senator's self description. I think she intended that I imagine a focused, dedicated public servant, straining against the harness, hairy ankles buried in mud, dragging a mountain of timber from a logging operation.

Plain, sensible, reliable, task oriented, gallant in a mundane way. Work horses pull the sled, or the plow, or the beer wagon. Knights once rode big burly work horses, and I wonder if Bill is trying to ride Hillary to a third term.

She intended the metaphor to reinforce what she has been telling us along, that she is experienced and tested, that while she may not be flashy, and she most definitely is not, she can be trusted to lead the nation without throwing a shoe, or whatever unsavory behavior characterizes show horses.

Hillary apparently dismisses show horses as frivolous, pampered, high strung, unpredictable. Show horses have shiny coats and braided mane. Based on my experience, that's a pretty accurate description, but it sounds more like John Edwards than Barack Obama.

A show horse doesn't have much utility unless being paraded around a ring. A show horse is all show. That's how the Senator would have us think of Senator Obama, flipping his head nervously, dreaming dreams and thinking thoughts that an old war horse has no time to contemplate.

Hillary portrays herself as born to the harness, safe, trustworthy, honest, reliable. Maybe she can pull a load, but those other characteristics don't match my image of Senator Clinton. Has anyone ever seen a clever, ambitious, devious work horse?

Look. There is Hillary, promising us leadership and stability over the long haul. Over there is that gadfly, the opponent, promising a new way and a fresh vision of America, a show horse who calls for reconciliation and participation, social justice and prosperity for the lesser of us, as well as the greater, a partnership between the deeply religious and those who cherish similar values but with a secular or



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.

email:
hsalzarulo@aol.com

humanistic perspective.

The work horse metaphor just doesn't evoke in me the comfort that Senator Clinton intended.

Now that show horse over there, that Obama is a horse I could get behind without worrying about getting my teeth kicked out. Now that her blanket of inevitability is showing some gaping holes, I suspect that Senator Clinton will throw all the mud in the paddock. I just don't expect it to stick.

... ROOM TAX continued from page 1

stead of county control was necessary because though all three areas have scenic drives, hiking and waterfalls, there are significant differences in reasons why tourists visit the particular areas. "With local TDCs we can get the best bang for the buck in the county," he said.

Each TDC in Highlands, Franklin and Nantahala will receive the occupancy tax generated within its designated area, less the historically collected 5% withheld for administrative overhead by the county.

The make-up of each TDC will be appointed by the Macon County Commissioners and will be composed of a chamber of commerce director, who will be a nonvoting member; a chamber of commerce board member, a county commissioner from the TDC district - McClellan, Davis and Leatherman; a town representative; a small accommodations representative with 10 rooms or less; a large accommodations representative with 10 rooms or more; and two representative from tourist-driven businesses for a total of seven voting members.

Commissioner Simpson requested the county commission be supplied three candidates for each category.

Furthermore, periodically, all three TDCs will meet to discuss ways to promote Macon County as a whole.

Each TDC, which will be under contract with the county, must present an annual plan of work and a financial audit performed by a certified public accountant which will be presented to the county commission.

Assuming all the legalities are worked out in time, the three new TDCs will become effective July 1, 2008.

— Kim Lewicki

• SALONS & SPAS •

Creative Concepts Salon
The Falls on Main 526-3939
549 E. Main St. - Upper Level -
Tracy, Joe, Lacy Jane, Heather, Stephanie, Pat and Whitney
Treat your Valentine to a Hot Express Pedicure & Manicure 1/2 off.
Hours: Tues-Fri: 9-5, Mon & Sat: 9-5

Taylor Barnes
Spa & Salon
Patricia Barnes • Master Cosmetologist
Caprita Barnes • Master Cosmetologist
Sharon Taylor • Massage Therapist NC LMBT #1429
Justin Taylor • Ace Certified Personal Trainer
OPEN: Tues. - Fri. 10-6 • Sat. 10-3 • Monday by appt.
(828) 526-4192
460 Dillard Road Village

Images Unlimited Salon
Spa on Spring
MASSAGE THERAPY
FACIALS • MICRODERMABRASION
CUSTOM PEELS • GIFTS
828-526-9477
225 Spring Street • Highlands
NC Grade "A" Salon
828-526-8832
NCLMBT

All Seasons Salon
Signature Hair Designs for Men & Women
Razor Cuts • Color • Perms
Off the Alley Behind Wolfgang's
Oak & Fifth Streets
Barbara, Gale & Van • 526-0349 • Open Mon - Sat

Michael's
FOR HAIR AND NAILS
at Old Edwards Inn
Specializing in Designer and Contemporary Cuts and European Hair Color.
We proudly offer Aveda hair care products.
Parking on Church Street and Valet Parking available at Old Edwards Inn.
(828) 526-9887
4th and Church Street Highlands, NC

Spend your ad dollars wisely in 2008.
Advertise in the vehicle that delivers results. Call
Highlands' Newspaper
at 828-526-0782 or email
HighlandsEditor@aol.com
and ask about the NEW
"Frequent Advertiser" amenity package

• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

It's Dangerous Out There

Ever since I heard about the woman who died from exposure after a hike on Whiteside I can't get her out of my mind. I love to hike by myself and I am about her age. I somehow felt so close to her; as if she could have been me.

I like to hike alone because I feel like the woods are a sacred place and to talk would be like talking in church. Other people are way too noisy.

I like to hike alone because I find that being quiet outdoors is the best way to solve problems. I don't even have to think about the problem (actually it's better if I don't); I just have to be outside and the answer presents itself.

Hiking is also a natural high. I always feel better after I have been on a long walk across a mountainside.

I have been thinking about this because I recently read a book given to me by Betty Fisher called *Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-deficit Disorder*.

The author, Richard Louv, defines his term this way: "Nature-deficit disorder describes the human costs of alienation from nature, among them: diminished use of the senses, attention difficulties, and high rates of physical and emotional illnesses. The disorder can be detected in individuals, families, and communities."

Louv suggests that many of our modern problems — depression, stress, ADHD — can be connected to our disconnection from the natural world.

Until very recently almost everyone knew someone who lived on a farm. My father's parents were farmers in Wisconsin and the times I, a city girl, spent on their farm were very special for me. But the farm population has dwindled from 40 percent of U.S. households in 1900 to just 1.9 percent in 1990. Children today have no link to a farm.

Sometime in the last year the world population became predominantly urban: now over 50% of people live in cities, according to the *Economist* magazine.

Even the little bit of nature people see in cities is artificial and gives children a warped understanding of natural processes. Barbara Kingsolver warned in her book *Animal Vegetable Miracle* [641.0973K] that children are losing any understanding of the progression in plants from bud to flower to seed or fruit: flowerbeds are planted when the plants are flowering and every withered flower is cut before it can set seed or the whole plant is pulled out and replaced.

In another column I will talk more about Louv's discussion of the problems this nature-deficit poses to children and our collective future, because there is too much in this excellent book to fit in one column.

I found plenty of evidence in the book to explain why I feel better after a hike. For example: "Roger Ulrich, a Texas A&M researcher, has shown that people who watch images of natural landscapes after a stressful experience calm markedly in only five minutes: their muscle tension, pulse, and skin-conductance readings plummet."

I also found an explanation for why hikes help me solve problems: when I am concentrated on a problem for too long I get what psychologists call "directed-attention fatigue." "As Stephen Kaplan explained in the journal *Monitor on Psychology*, 'If you can find an environment where the attention is automatic, you allow directed attention to rest. And that means an environment that's strong on fascination.' The fascination factor associated with nature is restorative, and it helps relieve people from directed-attention fatigue."

If being outdoors is so good for us, why are so many of us suffering from nature-deficit? Obviously one reason is that so many people live in cities. Louv de-

scribes some new ideas to bring nature and cities together. In particular he cites a book by Timothy Beatley, *Green Urbanism: Learning from European Cities*.

"He describes an astonishing array of European green-city designs: cities with half the land areas devoted to forest, green space, and agriculture; cities that have not only preserved nearby nature, but reclaimed some inner-city areas for woods, meadows, and streams. These neighborhoods are both denser and more livable than our own. Nature, even a sug-

gestion of wildness, is within walking distance of most residences. In contrast to the 'historic opposition of things urban and natural,' he writes, green cities 'are fundamentally embedded in a natural environment. They can, moreover, be re-envisioned to operate and function in natural ways — they can be restorative, re-nourishing and replenishing of nature.'"

Another reason many of us spend less time outdoors is fear. Louv spends a lot of time talking about how children aren't allowed to play outside anymore because of the fear of child abductions which is, like most crime in this country, greatly exaggerated by the media. The Justice Department sponsored a National Incidents Study of Missing Children in 1990 that found "First, most of the abductors weren't strangers, but family members or someone the family knew. Second, the actual annual figure of stranger abductions was two hundred to three hundred and it still is."

The Hudson Library has a new book by Chris Bolgiano, *The Eastern Cougar* (599.75E), documenting evidence that mountain lions are returning to these mountains. People are being killed in urban California areas by mountain lions — should I be afraid? Should I be afraid of coyotes when I am alone?

In the same newspaper with the woman who died on Whiteside was the report that the body of a hiker had been found here in Macon County, the husband of a woman whose body had been found last fall in Pisgah Forest. Not only do we have to be afraid of the elements and wild animals that could kill us, there are now serial killers stalking our forests. It's dangerous out there — better not to leave the house; better depressed in front of the TV than dead in the forest.

Of course I don't mean that. I'll be out in the woods at the next opportunity — in fact, I'm looking forward to a particular hike I have planned. I'll be rejuvenated and renewed, and I recommend it to everyone.



Katie Brugger
k-brugger@hotmail.com

SPECIALTY FOODS

b
basketcase

Highlands' premier
gift basket company

gourmet foods – coffees & teas
fresh-baked pastries – gifts
entertainware

294 S. 4th Street • "on the hill"
526-5026



- Gift Cards
- Accessories
- Gourmet Kitchenware
- Dinner Settings

Casafina

Open Mon – Saturday • 10am to 5pm
450 Main Street Highlands, NC 828-526-5226

DUSTY'S
RHODES SUPERETTE

All Year long!

**It's Dusty's....
A Grocery & MORE!**

Let our "Heat & Serve" items
make your life easier.

Order your homemade breads
and goodies now!

New Hours for Jan. & Feb.

Tues.-Sat, 8-5:30
493 Dillard Rd.
526-2762

**Whole
Life
Market**

Stop by and see our wide selection of
Local Organic Produce,
Specialty Gourmet Foods, Quality
Supplements, Organic Body Care,
Natural Health Books & References, &
Local Hand-Crafted Gifts.

"For a Healthier Life"

On the Corner of Foreman Rd. & Hwy. 64E

Monday-Friday 10 am - 5:30 pm
Saturdays 11 am - 4 pm

Call 526-5999

Call for our 2008 Media Pack. Spend your advertising dollar where it will do the most good...in Highlands' Newspaper!

• HIS & HERS •

Stealing delegates, stealing nominations

The first state results to be reported on Super Tuesday came from the Republican Caucus in West Virginia. The result was that Mike Huckabee got all the delegates from that state to the Republican Convention. What makes the story really interesting is, HOW he got those delegates.

From the report I have, here's how the delegates voted in round one:

- * Romney 464
- * Huckabee 375
- * McCain 176
- * Paul 118

Ron Paul, who got the fewest votes, was dropped from the ballot for the next round of voting. The results then became:

- * Huckabee 524
- * Romney 479
- * McCain 11

Anyone who can count to twenty without removing his socks can see what happened. McCain's operatives saw that they were going nowhere in West Virginia. So they instructed their people to give the state to Huckabee. And most of their delegates obeyed that order.

The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review ran this title on the story: "Wild and Wonderful Win for Huckabee." That title is false. This was a "Down and Dirty Win for McCain." Huckabee is going nowhere. Eventually, at the Republican Convention if not before, Huckabee's candidacy will fold like a cheap lawn chair. At that point, who will get those West Virginia delegates?

If you guessed Mitt Romney, I'll allow you another guess. John McCain has just stolen the votes of West Virginia by giving them, temporarily, to his ally in the theft, Mike Huckabee. By the way, national convention delegates must vote as they were pledged when elected, depending on state laws. I understand that none remain bound beyond the third roll-call vote.

As the saying goes, politics ain't beanbag. What was just done in West Virginia is entirely legal. But it smells as bad as a dumpster full of day-old crab shells behind Phillips Crab House in Ocean City, Maryland, in mid-July. Believe you me, that is REALLY rank.

If the delegates from West Virginia are enough to put McCain over the top, then McCain has just stolen the nomination. Right in front of God and



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

everybody.

Well, has anything similar happening among the Democrats? Just by coincidence, it has.

In order to preserve the special status of the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary, the Democratic National Committee required that no other state conduct its Democrat

primaries before a certain date in 2008. Democrats in Florida and Michigan decided to move their primaries up in violation of that limit.

The DNC then "stripped" the delegates from both states for the Convention. No delegates were then elected in the "beauty contest primaries" in those two states. Democrat candidates had also pledged not to campaign in those states, and in Michigan, Hillary Clinton was the only major candidate to leave her name on the state ballot.

Well, Hillary Clinton won both of those states. After those non-delegate elections, she wrote a letter to the DNC demanding that delegates for her from those states be seated at the Convention. The rest of this discussion is somewhat obscure, but I guarantee it is correct. I speak as the former Parliamentarian for a national political convention. (The convention was for Ross Perot's Reform Party. But the principles of operating a convention are the same, regardless of the candidate's chance of winning the coming election.)

When the Democrats meet in Convention in the summer, initially no delegates from Florida or Michigan will be seated. But let's say at that point that Hillary Clinton has a majority of the seated delegates, but not the absolute majority of all authorized delegates which is required for nomination. You with me so far?

Who gets to decide whether Hillary Clinton delegates from Florida and Michigan get seated? Why, it's the delegates who are already seated, that's who. In that circumstance, Hillary can use her plurality on the floor to steal the delegates from those two states. Having done that, she will have stolen the nomination. Right in front of God and everybody.

In short, there is a possibility that the 2008 presidential election may be unique

• See HIS & HERS page 17

Employment Opportunity

Retail Sales Associate position open for the 2008 season (May- October). We are seeking an energetic, positive person for full-time/seasonal employment who is interested in learning about and selling fine Asian art and jewelry in a long established business.

Retail experience not necessary, only a willingness to learn. Your duties will include retail sales of jewelry, antiques, gifts and all other merchandise on a non-commission basis; interaction with clientele of shop in a friendly, courteous and helpful nature; daily upkeep of shop including, but not limited to, arrangement and display of merchandise, cleaning of areas as needed, and possible clerical duties.

Hours are from 9:00 - 5:00, Monday thru Saturday, 4-5 days minimum, including Memorial & Labor Day Sundays plus Sundays in October. Salary is negotiable.

Contact: Katrina Laverty for interview at 800-437-2741 or 828-526-2769. E-mail us for application: slinc@verizon.net.



Stone Lantern Inc.
395 Main Street • PO Box 309
Highlands, NC 28741

Advertise where your ad will be seen....in the FREE newspaper. No one has to buy the paper to see your ad. Call or email about our frequent advertiser bonus package.

526-0782 or highlandseditor@aol.com

THE Summer House

Distinct and Customized
Products...

- Summer House Collection of Upholstery
- Coordinated Bedding
- Interior and Exterior Lighting
- Collections of Original Art
- Extensive Selection of Unique Accessories
- Gifts
- Kitchen and Pantry Items

Handcrafted Furniture by:

**Tiger mountain
WoodWorks**

2 miles from Main Street
 2089 Dillard Road • 526-5577
 Paula & Barry Jones

Manley's Auto Service

1597 S. Fourth Street
828-526-9805

Complete Auto Care
 Towing Service Available
 • ASE Certified



Manley's Towing Service

526-9805 or 342-0583

- 24 Hour Service
- Local & Long Distance Hauls

James "Popcorn" Manley
 Owner/Operator

Bryson's



Food Store

One Day

STOREWIDE

SUPER SALE

Thursday, Feb. 21

Super sales in ALL departments.

Best prices possible!

Premium meats, select seafood, fresh produce, an extensive wine selection and a wide array of organic and natural foods throughout the store.

**At Bryson's Food Store,
you'll also find everything you need for all your
favorite recipes.**

Located in Highlands Plaza • 828-526-3775 • Fax: 828-526-0430

Town Board finalizes several ordinance amendments

Amendments to several ordinances which have plagued the town's various boards for some time were dealt with last Wednesday night at the Town Board meeting.

Discussion still took place, and a final answer wasn't arrived at for every ordinance, but a dent was put in the pile of work.

Discussed were the Road Width and Grades for Subdivisions; Extension of Prohibition of Big Boxes, Setbacks on Town Hall Property, Outdoor Display of Merchandise, amendments to the zoning amendments for Perennial Streams, zoning amendments for the Highlands Greenway, Landscape Requirements for buffers and screenings, and the Pole Attachment ordinance and fee schedule.

Commissioners couldn't agree on the subdivision road width and grade amendment.

To maintain green space and save trees, commissioners considered increasing allowable grades and decreasing width requirements for one-lane paved roads in small subdivisions and to allow alternatives to cul-de-sacs on an individual review basis.

By increasing the maximum grade from 14% to 18% and requiring the portion of the road over 14% to be paved, less cut and fill would be required. Also, one-way loop roads and roads 300-feet or less in length and serving no more than five lots were considered. Commissioners reached a stalemate over the definition of lots, fearing a two-acre lot could someday be subdivided with access allowed via a one-way road or a road less than 18-feet wide.

Town Engineer Lamar Nix suggested adding "under no circumstance shall a road be extended past 300 feet if more than five lots were in the subdivision."

Commissioner Amy Patterson said if a narrow loop road continues to only serve five lots it would be OK, but "If any of the lots are subdivided in the future, there is the potential of more than five lots which would cause problems if the road becomes inadequate."

She suggested including "the lots can't be subdivided unless the road is widened," but no consensus could be reached.

Concerning big boxes, the Town Board killed the proposed amendment to the zoning ordinance.

The planning board recommended prohibiting big box buildings in the ETJ-Mixed Use district not to exceed 15,000 sq. ft. and that buildings in the B1, B2, B3, or B4 zoning districts be allowed to exceed 15,000 sq. ft., only with the issuance of a Special Use Permit and only up to a maximum of 25% of the existing footprint.

"I think 15,000 sq. ft. is really small," said Commissioner Hank Ross. "I've worked on some houses approaching this size."

Furthermore, the amendment would put several existing buildings in town out of compliance.

As to the setbacks on Town Hall property, commissioners decided against the planning board's recommendation which was to require the 25-foot setback on Oak and Maple streets but not Fourth Street.

"I see no visual harm in not requiring a setback on Oak Street as well as Maple Street," said Commissioner Dennis DeWolf.

The setback pardon applies only to the Town Hall property circumscribed by Oak, Maple and Fourth streets.

"The idea behind doing away with the setback requirements was to make room for more parking on the site," said Commissioner Amy Patterson.

The Outdoor Display of Merchandise is back to where it first began only less wordy and it applies to all five zoning districts -- B1, B2, B3, B4 and B5 (ETJ). Without the verbiage "such as" only the four categories listed are allowed -- produce, fire wood, fertilizers and plants. Merchants who want to display something other than those items listed, must apply for permission from the Planning Board and ultimately the Town Board and if accepted an amendment must be made to the ordinance.

Ex-commissioner Alan Marsh was in the audience and was able to sway the board concerning the issue.

"This is Highlands and we have come here because of the way it looks and we just don't need to change that," he said.

Commissioner Amy Patterson has been against the outdoor display of merchandise all along.

"Philosophically, why are we allowing this?" she asked. "Some people have space to display and some don't so they can't do it so, it's discriminatory. Plus, over the years we have made a point of dealing with the appearance of Highlands -- colors, siding, signage. We're trying to, in a general way, make Highlands have an appearance. What are we trying to do and why are we changing this? Let's clean up the definition instead of changing the philosophy."

Proposed amendments for perennial streams were tabled until a more detailed GIS study can be completed showing impacts of various scenarios and to allow time for the planning board to review preliminary findings.

The board agreed unanimously to adopt proposed amendments to the zoning ordinance pertaining to Greenways as follows:

- Adopt the Town of Highlands Greenway Plan Map -- Phase I dated Nov. 6, 2007;
- Require the dedication of passive recreation easement for conditional rezoning along identified greenway corridors ranging from 25-ft. to 50-ft. based on the Town

• See ORDINANCES page 14

... SCHOOL continued from page 1

our children in settings that preserve our values and our communities. Let's look forward and develop this vision to share with the school board and school officials."

He said anyone who believes in the American public school system is urged to attend. "We need your knowledge and your experience in putting together a vision to guide our schools."

An organizational meeting is set for Tuesday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. at the Macon County Community Facilities Building on

U.S. 441 south, across from the Whistle Stop Mall.

Gooder introduced himself as a "parent of two children in the school system and a former member of the Macon County School Board" and said upon taking the wheel, the new superintendent proceeded to advocate the closing of schools and the building of new ones without proper planning.

"This was done without a feasibility study as required by General Statute 115C-

521," said Gooder. "Before you can make any plan to close a school, you must do a study and compare new costs against the costs of renovation. This study must be turned into the State Superintendent who sends it to a historical committee."

The school facilities plan includes closing three elementary schools — Cullasaja, Cowee and Iolta — expanding East Franklin; building a new 5-6 school across the street from Macon Middle School and building a grades K-4 school on the current site of Iotla School to absorb and com-

bine populations.

"Small schools do better. That's a national fact," said Gooder. "Large schools breed more social problems. In Chicago, officials are currently closing three mega high schools and moving into 15-16 small schools to ensure their students a quality education."

Gooder said he went to elementary school at Cullasaja and there was nothing wrong with it.

"We have a quality system here, now. Closing schools means isolating students, bussing them to an area where no one knows them. This plan will damage our school system," he said. "We should look

•See SCHOOL page 16

... NORTHLAND continued from page 1

some, "not a lot, but some," evidence to damages incurred by HCG particularly 2,000 feet of line which costs 28 cents a foot.

During arguments, McDevitt admitted to the jury that some of the equipment and lines it claimed in damages weren't Northland's. He asked the jury to take that into consideration if it awarded damages to Northland and to decrease the award, accordingly. The jury did so.

Nin Bond, the primary partner in HCG, spent much of Thursday on the stand explaining industry jargon and verifying when asked by Northland attorney Larry McDevitt, with Van Winkle Law Firm of Asheville, that HCG had filed bankruptcy a little over a week prior to his scheduled deposition.

"Wasn't one reason you filed bankruptcy was to try to avoid the deposition and subsequently show up in court?" asked McDevitt.

Under oath, Bond maintained that the two incidents had nothing to do with each other.

McDevitt said his firm had to file a motion of relief for stay so the bankruptcy could be lifted and Bond could be deposed.

McDevitt said as a "creditor" on the bankruptcy papers Bond indicated the outcome of the present case as a possible lia-

bility with the monetary amount listed as "unknown."

Under Sossomon's examination, Bond said he filed bankruptcy because he's been fighting with Northland in court since 2003 and has incurred significant legal expenses. "My back was against the wall," he said. "I have incurred huge fees defending a claim I believe to be frivolous. I have been unable to pay my lawyers. I couldn't even afford the expense of filing for bankruptcy. I had to ask my partners to pay for that."

Bond said HCG has filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy to have time to reorganize the company and pay creditors.

Trying to point to Bond's credibility, McDevitt brought up HCG's relationship with the town of Highlands even though the issue before the court regarded Duke Power poles outside the town limits with just some "clean up" in the Mirror Lake area.

Sossomon objected to the line of questioning on the grounds that the case pertained to Duke Power poles outside the town limits and had nothing to do with the town of Highlands.

However, Judge Winner allowed it.

"Wasn't your franchise with the town of Highlands revoked in Feb. 2004?" asked McDevitt. Bond said yes.

McDevitt asked Bond if after receiving

three "cease and desist letters" from the town he continued to attach wire. Bond said no.

McDevitt said after two letters, the town cut his lines and Bond re-attached them. But again, Bond said no. He then explained the industry definition of the word "attach" as evidence that he hadn't done so.

"You reconnected them by splicing them or whatever," said McDevitt. "You reconnected the system even after the town cut your lines, didn't you?"

Bond then admitted that he made a connection on private property using a temporary drop line from one pole to another by attaching to the tails of two lines.

"I was on private property, I didn't need permission from the town of Highlands," said Bond.

"Isn't it true, that by unanimous vote the Town Board ruled that you flagrantly disregarded its pole attachment ordinance and didn't have permission to be on their poles and it revoked your franchise?"

Bond said that it's true the franchise was revoked but he didn't remember the particulars.

Under Sossomon's examination, Bond said after his lines were cut by the town, he ran the temporary line along the ground from one pole to the next which was

•See NORTHLAND page 26



Lenten Sermon Series at Highlands United Methodist Church

Tempted, Tried, Tested, and True: The True Marks of Christian Disciples.

Sunday, February 10:

"Tempted" (Mark 4:1-11)

Sunday, February 17: "Tested" (John 3:1-17)

Sunday, February 24: "Thirsty" (John 4:5-42)

Sunday, March 2: "Tried" (Ephesians 5:8-14)

Sunday, March 9: "Troubled" (Psalm 130)

Sunday, March 16:

"Triumphant" (Matthew 21:1-11)
Sunday, March 23: "True" (Matthew 28:1-10)

Highlands United Methodist Church

315 Main Street (526-3376)

Services Begin at 11:00

Todd Struble, Senior Pastor
Mike Harris, Associate Pastor
Les Scott, Minister of Music

• ART GALLERIES •

Bryant Art Glass



Open Monday-Saturday
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

New location at
216 S. 4th St. Highlands
526-4095

Mill Creek Gallery & Framing

Located in Highlands Village Square • Oak Street at 5th (behind Wolfgang's)

Custom Picture Framing
(including laminating service)



Art and crafts by local artisans

Open Saturdays in January
(828) 787-2021 cypicturelady@aol.com



381 Main Street • 526-0667



EDC outlines ways to attract businesses to Macon County

By Sally Hansen
Reporter

The Macon County Economic Development Commission (EDC) hopes to bring more employers to Macon County through several methods discussed at last week's EDC meeting. With the help of the Certified Entrepreneurial Committee, the EDC is working on a brochure spotlighting the strengths of the county.

County Manager Jack Horton was in attendance, and the committee presented its plan for improving both business and employment opportunities in Macon County.

Commission member Gary Dills said the purpose of the EDC is to promote entrepreneurship and economic growth, and he proposed that this be done with six steps. First, he said an awareness has to be established in the community, and then an assessment should be taken to determine what resources are present and what types of businesses the county should cater to.

The commission also agreed that the county's established businesses should be looked at and evaluated. Then it would be prudent to figure out how to promote small businesses in the future.

"We also need to define our region," Dills said. He said the 7-county area of "Region A" which includes the seven western

North Carolina counties and even Rabun County in Georgia, should be considered.

Also discussed was consulting with an Economic Development Authority Director to find out if current efforts are helping promote economic growth and development in other areas.

To meet these goals, Dills has had extensive help working on a brochure for the past four months to showcase the assets of Macon County to help attract prospective businesspeople and entrepreneurs to the area. These brochures will be placed in banks, libraries, schools, and other places where a businessperson might be looking for resources in starting a business.

Dills said community involvement is very helpful and Horton said the media can be a positive force in informing prospective businesses about our area. "The press needs to know what's good that's going on in our county," he said.

Macon County Commissioner Jim Davis also applauded the many volunteers the county already has, and mentioned that there is a tremendous pool of talent here that could get involved in this project. "Many retirees are not ready to sit on a porch and die; they want to have something to do, and we could put them to good use," Davis said.

The commission also discussed the fu-

ture use of the Business Development Center at the Macon County Industrial Park, also known as the "incubator." This facility is owned by the county, and it is intended to help new business get off the ground by offering a low-cost space from which to operate a business. Currently, the NC Driver's License Office occupies a portion of the building.

Member Mark West suggested that tenants be given a few years to use the facility, but that they not be allowed to stay more than three years. Horton said that if the business hasn't learned how to stay in operation by that amount of time, then the commission isn't maintaining a good relationship with the tenants, which is also supposed to be part of the incubator concept.

Entrepreneurs with something to offer are given a space to grow as businesspeople, with the help of others who are more experienced in developing a small business

plan. After a few years, they are expected to leave the incubator and move into the private sector.

It was decided that a nominal fee should be charged per square foot for the use of the incubator building to help the county to maintain the facility. Dills also suggested that the vacant space be marketed so that more of the rooms can be put to good use.

The next EDC meeting is scheduled to be Feb. 12 at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioner's Board Room at the Macon County Courthouse.

Commission members are Thomas Craig, Ed Shatley, Roger Plemens, Mark West, Gary Dills, Commissioners Charlie Leatherman, Jim Davis and representatives from the Franklin Chamber of Commerce, the Franklin Town Board, Southwestern Community College, the regional representative of NC DOT and the chairman of the WCIP.

New road to pumping station off Oak Lane a possibility

With an expanded Town Hall complex a possibility, the ABC Store will soon need a new home.

At the Feb. 6 Town Board meeting, David Wilkes, director of the ABC Board, asked commissioners for permission to develop preliminary plans for construction of a ABC store on the town's lot adjacent the Old Jail on Maple Street.

"We would like permission to explore the use of the Old Jail property," said Wilkes. "It will fit the building size and parking we need. We just need to draw up a plan to see how it will all fit."

Wilkes suggested the same relationship the ABC Store now has with the town which is the ABC Board paying to build the structure and then leasing it back to the town for \$1 a year for 30 years. "That will give us the time we need to pay back the 30-year financing," he said.

Old deeds on record at the county don't delineate the town property on Maple Street as separate parcels "It shows it as all one piece of property so we need to research the deeds and prepare a survey," said Town Administrator Richard Betz.

"We just wanted to get a general blessing from you before we get too deep into this and start spending money," said Wilkes.

The proposed building would sit on the parking area and road that now leads to the Greenway Trail and the town's pumping station. If built there, it would block vehicular access.

Commissioner Larry Rogers suggested

putting a new road to the pumping station at the crook of Oak Lane instead.

Town Engineer Lamar Nix said he didn't see a problem with that scenario as long as town crews can continue to access and maintain the pumping station and clean the sewer which is done twice a year.

Commissioner Hank Ross said impact to the Greenway Trail needed to be considered, too.

"That is recreation land and erecting the store there will impact that. We need to think about the impact before you spend a lot of time and money working on this," he said. "The Greenway is one concern, the other is general access going down to that area. If this building is built, the route will still have to be maintained and we need to determine how much impact it will have."

Commissioner Dennis DeWolf said he didn't want to stand in the way of making this happen but needed more information, too.

Commissioner Amy Patterson agreed. "I need to see this on paper and there are concerns we need to take into account so we can make a reasonable judgment based on the pros and cons," she said.

In the end commissioners suggested the town get a survey done since there isn't one on file because the information would benefit the town not just the ABC Store.

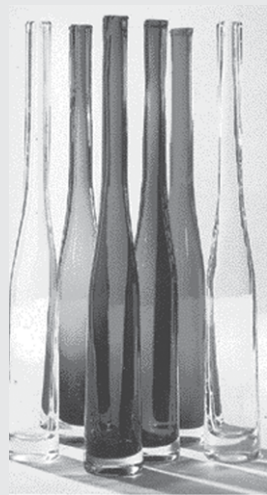
Mayor Don Mullen asked Hillrie Quin, of the Greenway Committee, Nix and Wilkes to look at the whole situation and to return to the board with a formal recommendation.

— Kim Lewicki

Best of the Bunch

Everything
Must
Go!

Prices
Have
Been
Slashed



Going Out of Business Sale!

LAST 3 Days

Thurs-Sat.
Feb. 14-16
noon to 5

Designers Welcome
Many unique home
decor items.

Includes exclusive 18Karat Home Décor, Vases, Baskets, Fixtures, etc.

CASH or Checks ONLY. No credit cards accepted!

Dillard Road Village Shopping Center (across from Dusty's)

County adopts flood and watershed ordinance amendments

Much of Monday night's Macon County Commission meeting was spent hearing comments from citizens both for and against amendments to the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance and the Watershed Protection Ordinance.

In the end, there was little the commission could do about either ordinance and they were adopted 4 to 1.

"If the county doesn't adopt an amended Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance by July 1, 2008, Macon County residents will no longer be eligible for flood insurance which will affect federally insured mortgages," said County Planner Stacy Guffey. "Nor will the county be eligible for FEMA disaster relief."

The state sent a boiler-plate flood damage prevention ordinance to Macon County after the latest flood plain maps were released in 2007 which show an increase in the county's flood plain by one percent – currently 3% of county land is considered in the flood plain.

Guffey said the state has delegated local governments to adopt regulations designed to promote public health, safety and general welfare because the flood prone areas in the county are subject to inundation resulting in loss of life and property. Flood disasters cause safety hazards, disrupt commerce and governmental services, and are responsible for extraordinary public expenditures for relief and protection which ultimately impairs the tax base,

he said.

Since flood losses are caused by the cumulative effect of obstructions in the flood plains causing flood heights and velocities to increase, the changes in the ordinance dealt mainly with building in the floodway or non-encroachment area and putting restrictions on building in the actual flood plain.

"What people must understand is there is nothing in this ordinance that prevents a person from building in the flood plain," said Bob Wright with the Macon County Watershed Commission. "It just shows ways to make it safer."

If building in the flood plain, the Planning Board recommended building three feet above the 100 year flood line – FEMA's minimum is two feet – and that buildings be on piers so water can flow around the foundation rather than be obstructed.

"Surveys used to create the new flood plain map are already out of date because it doesn't take into account development that has occurred in flood plains, floodways and non-encroachment areas since 2006," said Wright. "Development has changed the map since then. Flood levels only go up, they don't go down."

The development of a RV park along a river in Franklin caused the board to issue a moratorium on the development until the flood plain ordinance could be amended. It was lifted after the board adopted the amended Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance and the Watershed Ordinance which dealt with built-upon percentage requirements concerning RV parks in the flood plain and flood prone areas.

Many people spoke for the ordinance changes citing citizen safety and property protection of people downstream.

"This shouldn't be about one man's right to step on thousands of people's rights to enjoy their property," said Ginney Sanders with the Little Tennessee Watershed Authority. "The flood plain is a place for water to go when waterways fill up. If you fill it up with stuff, the water has no place to go."

Susan Irwin, whose father has built in the flood plain and been flooded out countless times, said the flood plain serves an environmental and biological function. "This is not an onerous ordinance. It's about ensuring as

little damage as possible to your neighbors downstream. Whitewater through your living room is no fun," she said.

Many folks spoke to property rights. "We ask the board not add more than what is required. Don't do anything that will prohibit property owners from using their land," said Guy Bower. "You don't want the result to be that no one can build or use their property."

Commissioner Ronnie Beale said unfortunately people have real short memories. "If Peek's Creek had happened yesterday we wouldn't be having this discussion."

Commissioner Jim Davis said he understood the property rights angle, and said the county was trying to do good things in regard to flood damage prevention but through language there are a lot of unintended consequences.

Amendments to both ordinances were adopted contingent upon some language changes which ultimately must be OK'd by FEMA.

Commissioner Beale made the motion to adopt the amendments contingent upon the definition of fill being changed; the size of RVs be adjusted up, that the tethering of RVs be eliminated, to allow building two feet above

the 100-year flood line; to define storage areas in the flood plain as commercial endeavors; and to change the name of the ordinance to Flood Ordinance of Macon County.

Commissioner Davis said the 400 sq. ft. reference to RVs should be increased because RVs owned by the folks buying RV lots in the proposed development are closer to 500 sq. ft. and the title of the ordinance is misleading because it doesn't prevent floods or damage.

Commissioner Bob Simpson voted against both ordinances on the grounds that there isn't any mechanism in place to compensate property owners for the inability to use all of their land along a waterway.

County Manager Jack Horton said citizens can appeal to the tax assessor to have their tax value decreased or the property value adjusted to take into account the amount of land they can't use.

Simpson was also concerned about the inability of a citizen with a commercial entity in the flood plain to build back should a flood occur.

County Building Inspector Jack Morgan said commercial entities don't have to be elevated in the flood plain like residential buildings they just have to be flood proof.

... LETTER from page 2

tion of employment eligibility to employers. Employers could find out a year or more after the hire date that their employee is unauthorized after training and investing in them, and would have to immediately fire them.

- No liability protection is included from discrimination lawsuits for an employer who relies on E-Verify information and does not hire or fires a current employee, in the event that the future or current employee is later found eligible to work in the United States.

- Preemption is not addressed in the legislation, except in terms of not allowing states to opt out of E-Verify. Immigration is a federal issue and business cannot work successfully in a country with patchwork state and local laws that can often contradict each other.

The failure of Congress to fix our immigration system or to recognize the ongoing need of the American economy for workers, and to separate those who wish to harm our nation from those who wish to help build it should not be solved by making criminals of American business owners. The current system does not work for anyone, and Congress needs to address the issue in a coherent, comprehensive manner that serves our national security and economic interests rather than taking a piecemeal approach.

Hillrie Quin
Chairman, International
Friendship Center

• HIGHLANDS EATERIES •

Sports Page



Sandwich Shoppe

Soups • Salads • Sandwiches
Desserts • Loaded Baked Potatoes

NOW OPEN

Thurs.-Sat. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

314 Main Street • 526-3555

Buck's Coffee Cafe

Open 7 days a week
7 a.m. to 9 p.m.



Coffee, tea, wine,
pastries, sandwiches
384 Main Street

High Country Cafe



Down
home
favorites
everyday!

Breakfast & Lunch
6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Sunday through Friday

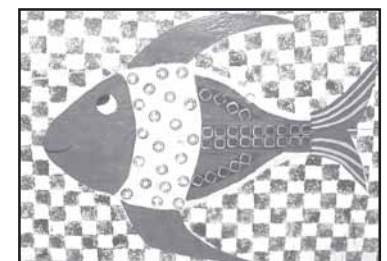
526-0572

Cashiers Road next to the
Community Bible Church

Stop in for slow-cooked BBQ, Ribs,
Fried Chicken, Hot Wings and other
Southern favorites that'll have you
asking for more!



461 Spring Street • 526-2626



Pescado's Burritos

In the middle of 4th St.
...on the hill

Open for lunch Mon-Sat
Open for dinner Mon-Fri
526-9313

Rep. Shuler secures more than \$70,000 for Macon County Sheriff

Funding to be used to fight Meth and other illegal drugs

Macon County will soon be receiving more than \$70,000 from the federal government to fight methamphetamine and other illegal drugs due to the efforts of Representative Heath Shuler.

Rep. Shuler secured a federal appropriation of \$493,500 Multiple Agency Narcotics Unit (MANU) to fight drug use, production, and distribution. MANU will then distribute the funding to the Sheriff's Offices in the seven westernmost counties of North Carolina: Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, and Swain.

"The fight against methamphetamine is critically important to the safety of our families and our communities. We need to be doing everything in our power on the local, state, and federal level to stop

this use and sale of this drug. This funding will allow the Macon County Sheriff's Office to invest in training, equipment, and other resources they need to fight meth," said Rep. Shuler. "I applaud



Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland with Rep. Heath Shuler

ACT ONE ground breaking

Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts

Phil and Sharon Drake cordially invite the public to the ceremonial ground breaking of the 150-pluss seat Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts on February 25, at 9:30 a.m.

Providence Builders is the primary contractor for the new arts center. Construction is estimated to take fourteen months, with an opening date in the spring of 2009.

The Center will be constructed next to the Fun Factory in the Smokies (a 56,000 SF Family Entertainment Center) at 1024 Georgia Road in Franklin, NC. It will be capable of hosting musicals, plays, concerts, music festivals, and community events. The Performing Arts Center will attempt to

showcase national, regional, and local talent in various events.

The Performing Arts Center has been designed to make it attractive both to the performers and the patrons. The stage will have a full 60 foot opening, with ample dressing rooms and off stage storage.

The primary goal will be to have various forms and styles of entertainment showcased in the mountains: Comedic Performances, Concerts (Gospel, Country, Bluegrass, Oldies), Drama, Recitals, Passion Plays, and Christmas Concerts. A secondary goal is to bring tourism and visitors to Franklin and the Western North Carolina area and give them a reason to visit and to stay.

WNS Fungus could be killing bats

The endangered Indiana bat saw a 9.4% population increase between 2005 and 2007, continuing a 12-year rise in bat numbers, though a mysterious illness in the Northeast poses a threat to this success.

According to figures released by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, in 2007 the number of Indiana bats rose to more than 513,000, up from 469,000 in 2005, the last time a comprehensive population estimate was completed.

"While that seems like a lot of bats, every winter they come together in massive numbers in a few caves and mines to hibernate, making them extremely vulnerable. In the past, human disturbance of major Indiana bat hibernation sites significantly contributed to the bat's decline and was a main factor leading to its addition to the Federal list of endangered species. Now the bat's habit of aggregating in large numbers at hibernation sites may make them

more vulnerable to the rapid spread of this new disease," said Robert Currie, a bat biologist in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Asheville Field Office.

Biologists in New York documented the death of thousands of bats, including several hundred Indiana bats, all apparently infected by a fungus which often forms white tufts on the bats' muzzles, giving the name white nose syndrome, or WNS. In addition to the white muzzle, dead bats appear to have used up their winter fat stores and have congregated much closer to cave entrances than usual. Researchers are trying to determine if the fungus itself is responsible for the deaths or if its presence is symptomatic of another problem.

Although they occur in greatest numbers in the Midwest, Indiana bats have been known to hibernate in Western North Carolina, and more commonly, migrate to the region in the warmer months.

the efforts of Sheriff Holland and the entire Macon County Sheriff's Office, and I know they will continue protecting our communities."

Sheriff Holland said, "Hometown security is as important as homeland security. We appreciate the fact that Congressman Shuler is taking care of the law en-

... PARKING continued from page 1

explained the pros and cons of "shared" parking – whether it be between private entities or municipalities.

"Sharing parking in some way allows existing parking to be more efficiently used, reduces the amount of impervious surface that would be otherwise required, and helps to improve the aesthetics of the town," he said. "Furthermore, there is a substantial need to address this issue as it relates to public, health, safety and welfare."

"Credit for On-Street Parking Spaces and Public Parking Lots" was discussed at length suggesting businesses and restaurants, in particular, be allowed to use public parking – on public streets or in public lots – to satisfy parking requirements.

The board got hung up on the percentage-credit of a public spot that could be used to satisfy the parking space-to-seat ratio, as well as the distance of the public parking spaces from an establishment.

Co-chair Ginger Slaughter made a motion of 50% credit and the use of public spaces up to 400 feet away, but Linda Clark proposed 100% credit.

"This would be a way to help small restaurants that could be started in locations like on Carolina Way that only have three spots in front of their establishment but could use public parking," she said. "We could use more restaurants in Highlands and we could help them."

To compromise, Chairman Griffin Bell suggested 80%.

Mike Bryson questioned putting a distance limit on public spaces at all.

"The distance shouldn't matter," he said. "Why can't it be 1,000 feet? It shouldn't matter where it is because in the end it's based on a percentage of use anyway," he said.

In the end, Slaughter amended her motion and the board voted unanimously to recommend an 80% credit and use of space up to 400 feet away.

For instance, if a restaurant has five parking spaces which enables it to have 15 seats, and it is within 400 feet of public parking, it could use 80% of their five spaces to get four additional public spaces which could mean 12 more seats for that restaurant.

Remote parking was discussed but the issue of crossing public streets came into play.

The board discussed requiring remote

enforcement officers in his district and this community. This money will be utilized to continue our efforts in the war on drugs."

The funding that Rep. Shuler secured was a part of the FY 2008 Omnibus Appropriations bill.

lots to be adjoined to the business in need of parking, but questions arose.

Mike Bryson said if he leases a lot away from his business, he should be able to use it to satisfy his parking needs "because it's still mine," he said.

Bell said if crossing a public street becomes an issue, then Fireside Restaurant wouldn't be able to use its lot off Helen's Barn Avenue to satisfy parking requirements. "That would make Fireside out of compliance because the lot it uses is across a road," he said.

Ricky Bryson verified that Helen's Barn Avenue is a town road and not part of Wright Square property.

Because of all the different scenarios, at one point the board considered tabling all the amendments until a comprehensive parking study could be completed as suggested by Commissioner Hank Ross at the previous Town Board meeting. However, Bell nixed that suggestion.

"We have businesses that need answers now," he said.

Though thoughts about reworking the town's parking regulations were initiated by restaurants whose seating capacity is directly related to the number of parking spaces they have, whichever parking scenario adopted by the Town Board will apply to all businesses for which parking is required in all four business districts – B2, B3, B4 and B5 (ETJ).

The Town Board will hear the Planning Board's "credit for public space" recommendation at the March 5 Town Board meeting.

More on the Planning Board meeting
At its last meeting, the Town Board disregarded the Planning Board's suggestions concerning "Big Boxes" and setbacks on Town Hall property – see story on page 8.

Bell said it's clear the Town Board isn't getting the information it needs concerning the reasons the Planning Board makes its recommendations.

He said the way the board arrives at its decisions and the comments made by members per the issues aren't being passed on to the Town Board.

He said comments made at meetings show up in newspaper articles, but he's not sure commissioners see them.

He asked that more comprehensive minutes be compiled by the Planning Director and his staff.

– Jim Lewicki

• CONSERVATIVE POV •

And then there were three...

My, what a week. At the same time multiple tornados were wreaking havoc over the central part of the country, voters all over were shaping our future. While the Democrat candidates broke even, McCain did well enough to encourage Mitt Romney to suspend his campaign. This makes McCain the odds-on favorite to be the Republican's choice.

At the same time Obama was announcing that he received \$7.2 million in donations the two days following Super Tuesday, Mrs. Clinton reported she lent her campaign \$5 million. If the Democrat nomination depends on the ability to raise money, and it usually does, it looks like advantage Obama.

The Romney story shows the vagaries of political campaigns. He started his campaign early, worked hard, and seemed to have gotten past the Mormon issue, yet he just couldn't get much traction. His poll numbers hovered between 15-20% while Rudy's popularity soared and then fell back. Poor campaign strategy. Fred Thompson's long-awaited entry went nowhere fast. Poor campaign execution.

Conservatives, while bashing McCain ceaselessly, kept looking for Ronald Reagan reincarnated. Rather than take the positive approach and determine and support the best name available, the anti-McCain rhetoric droned on. Mike Huckabee picked up expected support from Southern states, largely from evangelicals, but not enough to be a serious threat.

So, as the primaries and caucuses got underway, conservatives knew who they didn't want, but not who they did. Some said they'd vote for Hillary before they'd vote for McCain. That's crazy. Others said they'd just stay home on Election Day.

That's stupid. But they didn't say they'd vote for Romney until the damage had been done. Meanwhile, McCain attracted moderate Republicans, independents and some Democrats, where crossover voting was allowed. By the time conservatives realized that Romney was the real deal, it was too late. McCain had accumulated too many delegates to overcome.

Romney announced his withdrawal at the Conservative Political Action Conference in a speech that I thought was the best I'd heard since Reagan.

Even though he led Huckabee in delegates secured, Romney felt to continue would further fractionalize the party and by suspending his campaign he would win the favor of Republican



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

leadership. I believe he also felt to continue would mean throwing good money after bad and he's saving the rest of his fortune for a run in 2012.

So, what are we left with? We pretty well know what we would be getting if Hillary were to be elected. Her "35 years of experience" have exposed her to be a ruthless, devious shrew, who will stop at nothing to accomplish her aims. She put up with continuous humiliation when

hubby Bill embarrassed himself and the Country with his non-stop indiscretions. Why would any self-respecting woman put up with his crap? To become President of the United States, of course. Ironically, her meal ticket is now a liability on the campaign tour, sticking his foot in his mouth at every opportunity. Way to go, Bill.

Barack Obama. What do we know about him? A couple of years into his first term as senator of Illinois, he has earned the rating as the most liberal member of the Senate. While I'll be dipped if I can see it, he has been called an accomplished inspirational speaker. He has been compared to Jack Kennedy. All I hear are platitudes and clichés without any substance. While I wasn't a big fan, JFK spoke with meaning.

John McCain is the presumptive Republican nominee. It would take a miracle and 83% of the remaining available delegates for Mike Huckabee to overtake McCain's lead. Ain't gonna happen. I pointed out some of McCain's poor legislative choices last week but he does have some redeeming qualities. He certainly would take a more hawkish stand on national defense and the Iraq war than the Democrats would. He has been a fiscal conservative and his voting record proves it. That would be nice for a change. His right-to life stand has been admirable. So, while he isn't the poster boy of conservative politics, it could be worse.

Getting back to Hillary, as Mrs. President, she tried to take over the nation's health care system. She showed her style by lying to Congress, working in secrecy and failing in her effort. As President, she had vowed to try to do it again, and make it mandatory. She has admitted that nonparticipants could have their wages garnisheed, and possibly jailed. And, of course, she would wreck our healthcare system. Then where would Canadians and the worlds' wealthy go for first-class medical treatment?

It's time to get serious about who gets your vote.

• HIGHLANDS FINE DINING •

Cyprus Dinner: 5-9 nightly
Live Music Saturdays
(now serving mixed drinks & beer)
International Cuisine
N.C. 106 in Dillard Road Shopping Center • 526-4429

"Fabulous Food in a Casual Atmosphere"



Serving Lunch: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Serving Dinner: from 5-8 p.m., Thurs-Mon.

Reservations are now being accepted for our special Valentine's Day Weekend romantic dining experience!

787-2200

Two Entrances – Main and Oak streets



Think "Fressers" for Lunch & Dinner!

Gourmet meals • Fabulous Desserts • Wine
Brown-bagging permitted

Music with Cy Timmons Wed.-Sat at 6 p.m.
Open for lunch and dinner
Call for reservations • 526-4188

**3-Course Chef
Tasting Menu
presented
5:30-6:30 p.m.**

Madison's
RESTAURANT AND WINE GARDEN

Open Everyday for Lunch and Dinner!

Please call for reservations: 828-526-5477
445 Main Street • Highlands, NC, 28741

**Lunch served
11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
Dinner served
5:30-9 p.m.**



Don Leon's Cafe

**Serving Lunch
Wednesday-Sunday
11am-3pm**

Now delivering in town and to the hospital

"Park any place but eat at Don Leon's!"
30 Dillard Road, 526-1600

The Log Cabin Restaurant



**Open for Dinner
5:30 until
Wed.-Sun.**

(Closed Mon. & Tues.)
Reservations appreciated

On Log Cabin Road behind Hampton Inn off N.C. 106 • 526-3380

Ristorante Paoletti

Call 526-4906 Fine Italian dining since 1953. 440 Main Street

Serving Dinner Thursday-Sunday from 5:30 p.m.

Reservations recommended

Wine Spectator's "Best of Award of Excellence"

OLD
EDWARDS
INN *and Spa*

*We Are Celebrating A Month Of Love
At Old Edwards!*

In Madison's

A Romantic Valentine's Dinner
(Offered February 14 – 16, 2008)

Featuring

An elegant four course dinner
\$90 per person plus tax and gratuity

Cupid's Overnight Treat Package
(Offered February 1-29, 2008)

Couple's Weekend Wine Getaway
Offered Feb. 15 – 18th

Featuring

- **Veuve Clicquot Champagne Reception – Friday, February, 15**
- **Newton Vineyards Wine Dinner – Sunday, February, 17**
(Event only registration available.)

For reservations or more information
866.526.8008 or 828-787-2625
 Or visit us online at oldedwardsinn.com

445 Main Street • Highlands, NC 28741

© OWNED AND OPERATED BY OLD EDWARDS HOSPITALITY GROUP, LLC

A night at the Community Care Clinic on Aunt Dora Lane

It was a dark and stormy night. The snow was falling and the roads were slick with an icy film. That Thursday night, Jan. 17, patients and volunteers could not safely get to Aunt Dora Lane and the Community Care Clinic, and medical needs went quietly unad-

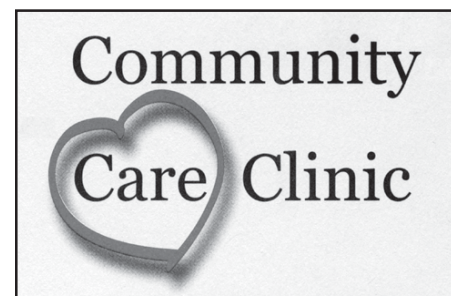
The winter weather continued the following Thursday, but the roads were clear – and the patients and the volunteers came. That evening, Jan.24, they came in droves, the greatest numbers since the Clinic had opened two years ago! The Clinic treated a record 48 patients that night (and over 45 the following Thursday).

Dr. John Baumrucker was the volunteer doctor for the night, and Richard Wayne, the PA, was there as well. Dr. Mark Heffington dropped by to bring some supplies and give a hand before he went to his son's basketball game, and seeing the commotion, found himself staying to help. Earlier in the day, Dr. Patti Wheeler had called to check in and was told that she wouldn't be needed that night. Little did anyone know!

That night, patients of all ages were seen – from little ones on up the scale, people from all over these mountains. The doctors treated skin problems, stomach problems, sore throats and runny noses, strained muscles, fevers, and aching bones. Those requiring medications were given prescriptions that they could take to Cashiers Valley Pharmacy or to Highlands Pharmacy to be filled for free. (These businesses will bill the Clinic later at a discounted rate. Patients who need medicines on a regular basis work with the Medical Assistance Program to get them directly from the pharmaceutical companies.) On the night of Jan. 24, the Clinic did not lock its doors until well after 10:30.

Our fourth volunteer doctor, Dr. Toby Lindsay, had the night off on Jan. 24. When Doctor Lindsay first signed on to volunteer, he stopped by on a Thursday just to observe the process. As with our other dedicated volunteer doctors, he walked in, saw an immediate need, and went to work.

We at the Community Care Clinic are so fortunate to have doctors who work hard at their own offices all day, and then are willing to give of their time and expertise after-hours to help those less fortunate. As the number of patients continues to grow, so will our need for more



medical people,
more translators,
more assistance. If
you are willing to
give of yourself and
your talents to
those in need,
please call Jerry
Hermanson at the
Community Care
Clinic. 526-1991.

We can find a job for you!

The Community Care Clinic (CCC) provides free medical care to those who cannot otherwise afford it. Located at 52 Aunt Dora Drive in Highlands, the Clinic is open each Thursday night from 5:00 until 9:00. Appointments can be made by calling 526-1991, but they are not required; the Clinic stays open until all patients are seen.

... ORDINANCES
continued from page 8

of Highlands Greenway Plan Map and conditional use zoning shall not be granted, without the dedication to the Town of Highlands an easement for passive recreation, etc., and the dedication of a conservation easement to a qualified land trust to be held in perpetuity by said land trust and allowing all uses consistent with the purpose of the Highlands Greenways;

- Create exceptions for minimum lot sizes for properties with greenway easements;
- Require setbacks will be from property lines and roadways, not greenway easements;
- Modify buffer requirements so any path or trail within land dedicated to the Greenway will be a minimum of 20-ft. from a perennial stream and,

It provides design characteristics of paths and trails allowed within the Greenway located within conditional zoning districts.

The board deferred adoption of the landscape ordinance pending the inclusion of an extensive list of recommended species for landscaping and buffers where plant materials are identified by botanical names. Commissioners did agree on the list of plants, however.

The pole attachment ordinance has gone back and forth between Nix's office and Town Attorney Bill Coward. The 47-point amendment was ready for adoption Wednesday night and includes precise regulations concerning the use of the town's utility poles by entities providing cable television, telephone or similar services within the town to provide safe and orderly use of its poles. There had been some talk on increasing the town's pole attachment fee, but the board agreed to leave it a \$10 per attachment.

— **Kim Lewicki**

– **Kim Lewicki**

Bear Mountain Outfitters



Come shop
this
Presidents
Day
Weekend
30%-75% OFF
Select
Men's,
Women's and
Children's
footwear and
clothing!

Mon-Thurs – 10-5
Fri & Sat – 10-6
Sun – 11-5

Corner of 3rd & Main • 526-5784

Main Street
526-5010

COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES

Wright Sq. 828-526-2520 | www.ccphighlandsnc.com | ccp4info@verizon.net

Mt. Fresh
787-2002



BEAR PEN MOUNTAIN LANE. Located on over 1.8+/- acres and at the end of a mountain lane, this 3 bedroom, 3 bath home features antique heart of pine floors, 10' coffered beamed ceilings, split bedroom plan, custom kitchen with granite countertops. Master bedroom opens onto a glassed sun room. The sun room and living room open out to a massive deck with a lovely view of Whiteside and Highlands Falls Country Club. Plenty of parking and great privacy. Offered at \$1,295,000. mls #64042



BIG VIEW - HFCC - Absolutely one of the most Unique Comfortable Homes on the Market. Fabulous Views of Whiteside Mtn. Open Floor Plan with High Ceilings & Large Rooms, Five Bedrooms, Five Baths & Two Half Baths. Home has been extensively updated, Kitchen features Cherry Cabinets new Wolfe Subzero Stainless Steel Appliances, Handcrafted Italian Tile Counter tops, Bathrooms feature Tumbled Travertine Tiles, Heart of Pine Hardwood Floors on both Levels, New HVAC System. Easy Access with Double Car Garage, Large Decks, Mature Landscaping, Security System, Generator, Two laundry rooms, Offered at \$2,850,00- MLS#-64081



WALK TO TOWN. Within the city limits, wonderful and warm cottage, lots of charm, on a beautiful level lot with large trees. This well built home has two bedrooms and two baths. Kitchen and baths have granite counter tops. Large stone fireplace in living room, hardwood floors, two car carport that could become a great guest house. New heat and air plus generator makes this a must see. Offered at \$599,000. mls #64119



Curb appeal abounds from this great cottage located on a corner lot off Wyanoak Road in the Mirror Lake section in the city of Highlands. Real stone fireplace, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths together with an open kitchen/living room on the main level. Lower level has additional family room with bath and guest room. Flat, usable yard is pet friendly. Offered at \$499,000. mls #64038



Commercial location with loads of potential. .57 acres zoned B-3 small duplex style building that could be renovated, or you could start from scratch. One of the most reasonable commercial properties available. \$295,000. mls #62846



Enjoy a noisy babbling brook off the huge rear deck from this freshly renovated 3 bedroom, 2 bath home located on Laurelwood Lane. It is walking distance to town and in a nice neighborhood. Great privacy as this backs up to the dedicated green space park at Ravenel Ridge. Large covered porch off master bedroom, old fashioned master bath features hex tile and a claw foot tub. Lower level has den, one bedroom/storage room, workshop. Offered at \$545,000. mls #64090



LOVELY SAGEE MOUNTAIN. Easy living floor plan and loads of storage in this 3 bedroom, 2 -1/2 bath plus a large loft. Custom kitchen, dining room, living room with all masonry stone fireplace, large rear deck for entertaining, one car garage, large storage building/possible guest house. Great private lot borders Land Trust lands. Offered at \$1,225,000.



CUTE DOES NOT APTLY DESCRIBE this great mountain cabin located off Flat Mountain on Viewpoint Road. Wood floors, open rooms. Two bedrooms plus a sleeping area, two baths, real stone fireplace. Huge covered porch. \$465,000. mls #59751



Walk to town living from this lovely contemporary home that features vaulted rooms and that open (loft living) environment. 3 bedrooms 2 baths, garage, workshop. Huge decks and porches wrap around the whole house to enjoy outdoor living. Lovely manicured grounds. This house is built like a Tank! Offered at \$652,000. mls #64047

... SCHOOL from page 9

at the options and look at the cost of renovations. We should save our schools instead of tearing them down.”

Commissioner Jim Davis took particular offense to Gooder’s comments.

“A feasibility study was done 10 years ago and that started us down the road to where we are now. I was part of the committee that did that,” he said. “The statistics you cite in Chicago don’t apply here. If you’re going to try to sell people on keeping us from doing what we started 10 years ago you better have your facts right.”

Later in the meeting, which lasted a record 5 ½ hours, Superintendent Dan Brigman addressed Gooder’s claims calling them false and deserving of clarification.

“If I ever leave Macon County, I hope to leave the school system in better shape than I found it in Nov. 2006,” said Brigman to the commissioners. “When I got here the subject of facilities was an on-going discussion. Macon Middle School is in distress and renovations to East Franklin Elementary were being considered.

“To deal with the complex issues ahead of us we began meeting with Commissioners Jim Davis and Ronnie Beale and have done so consistently from Feb. 12 2007 until now to review priorities, capacity and aging facilities.

“The expansions planned will actually make existing schools smaller not bigger, reducing the student population while eliminating 28 portable buildings on our campuses.”

Brigman said prior to embarking on the facilities program, the school system held 10 public forums in each area of the county so citizens could see the facility plan – to beat it up and ask questions, he said.

“The turn out was decent, but I wish it had been packed to the walls. Had we had a packed house each time, people would understand what’s going on now,” he said.

In rebuttal to Gooder’s claim, Brigman said he has personally been in contact with the State Superintendent June Atkinson to discuss Macon County Schools facilities plan. “Extreme attention has been given to these measures,” he said. “Our plan will mean new modern classrooms for each student.”

He said classroom standards and requirements are different than they were 20 years ago. In the past, elementary classrooms could be 700-900 sq. ft. Now a kindergarten room has to be 1,200 sq. ft with restrooms in each of them.

On Tuesday, Brigman verified that per state statute, a feasibility study is required by all districts to assess capital plans and needs every five years. “This process serves as a benchmark for the State of North Carolina Department of Public Instruction to aid in planning capital needs throughout the state.

“To the contrary of statements made by a parent and coordinator of the Citizens for Community Schools at the beginning of the county commission meeting last evening, the Macon County School District has submitted a feasibility plan titled *Macon County Schools Capacity Summary & Plan* in accordance with G.S. 115C-521.”

He said the plan is a working document and may be amended by the Macon County Board of Education at any time to meet the changing needs within the district after submission to the state.

“This plan was presented to the State of North Carolina in 2006 and includes the district’s plan for closing Cowee Elementary School, Iotla Elementary School, and Cullasaja Elementary School,” he said. “These buildings should be replaced due to age of these facilities, economies of scale, and classroom requirements.”

Also included in the plan is the construction of North Macon Elementary School on the current Iotla site. At the

•See SCHOOL page 20

• 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. Erbelding, Pastor
Church: 706-746-2999
Pastor’s residence: 706-746-5770

Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

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

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

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: 5:30 p.m. Supper (free for kids 8th grade and under); 6:15 p.m., Adult Bible Study; 6:30 p.m. programs for students.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Rev. Brian Sullivan – Rector: 526-2968
Sunday: 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 childrens
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 – Womens Bible Study (nursery)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741
Sundays: 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

• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL BASKETBALL •

Young team playing hard 2007-2008

Highlands vs. Hiwassee Dam

The boys played a tight game against Hiwassee Dam on Friday, Feb. 8 at Hiwassee Dam. The score was 70 Highlands, 87 Hiwassee Dam.

Top scorer was Ezra Herz with 26 points followed by Jake Heffington with 24 points. Mikey Lica was next up with 12 points followed by Michael Baty with 4 and Andrew Billingsley with 2.

The team's strongest quarter was round two with 22 points

Highlands vs. Nantahala

The boys lost to Nantahala 61-86 on Monday, Feb. 11 at Nantahala.

The scoring pack delivered the best they could. Top scorer was Jake Heffington with 28 points, followed by Ezra Herz with 13; Andrew Billingsley with 10 and Michael Shearl with 4 points.

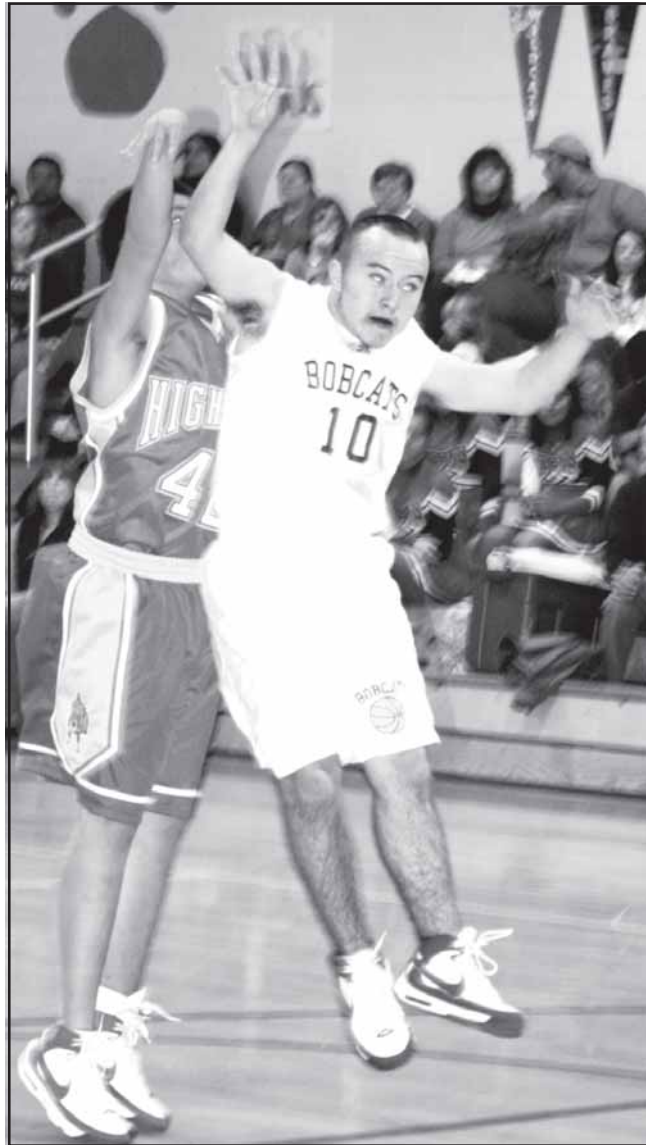
Three other players came through – Michael Baty scored 3 points, Casey Molinary scored 2 points and Mikey Lica scored 1 point. The strongest quarter for both teams was the final quarter with 23 points for Highlands and 24 points for Nantahala.

Highlands vs. Hendersonville

The same players in Highlands carried the game. High scorer was Ezra Herz with 19 points, followed by Jake Heffington with 16, Andrew Billingsley with 8, Casey Molinary with 6, Michael Shearl with 4, three each for Mikey Lica and Michael Baty, two each for Clayton Lassiter and Josh Delacruz and one for Austin Brooks. Though the team lost, players who don't usually get to, saw some court time.

Highlands' season record is 5-22. The conference record is 2-3.

The next game home game: Feb. 15 against Blue Ridge. The girls play at 6:30 p.m. and the boys play at 8 p.m.



A win against the Blue Ridge Bobcats on the cats' turf Jan. 24. The score was 74-37.

Photo by Noel Atherton

Snow delivers on funding for paving

On Monday, Feb. 11, Senator John Snow and Rep. Roger West informed the town that the funding requested to pave Hickory Hill, Chowan, Cullasaja Drive was granted.

"We got the money and are glad we could help," wrote Sen. Snow in an email to Mayor Don Mullen.

At the Thursday, Feb. 7 N.C. Board of Transportation meeting, the project, recommended by Speaker Hackney and President Pro Tempore Basnight was ap-

proved by the board, said Donna Langdon with NC DOT Secondary Roads Office.

"For Macon Co., Div. 14 – Highlands funding for the paving of Hickory Hill Road (0.93 mi), Chowan Drive (0.93 mi), and Cullasaja Road (1.89 mi).for \$266,925," she wrote.

Town Administrator Richard Betz said work will likely begin in the spring once the paperwork is finalized and the asphalt plant opens.

... HIS & HERS continued from page 7

in American history. Before 2008, nominations have been stolen. Elections have been stolen (recall the Hayes-Tilden race of 1876). But never before have two candidates, both of whom stole their nominations, faced each other in a general election.

If the vote tallies are tight at both the Republican and Democrat national conventions, it is possible we might see that unique circumstance, two election

thieves facing each other with one guaranteed to win, between John McCain and Hillary Clinton.

Sorta makes you proud to be an American, don't it?

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

• BUILDERS & ARCHITECTS •



Call today for information.

Highlands – 828-526-2412
Lake Toxaway – 828-883-8004

or visit our website at:
www.schmittbuilders.com



From Country Clubs to
Mountainside Lots,
We Can Help Turn Your Highlands
Dream Into a New Home Realty
828-526-2240
Toll Free: 888-303-2240
www.cimbuild.com

RAND SOELLNER ARCHITECT
website: randarch.com

Phone: 828.743.6010

Cell: 828.269.9046

randsoellner@earthlink.net NC Lic.9266 FL Lic.AR9264



Ask about
"Green Building
Options!"

Steve Abranyi
828-787-2297
828-342-3234

GREEN MOUNTAIN BUILDERS
Custom homes and remodels

Whether your property is on top of a cliff or
lakeside, we have the experience to make
your home a reality.

Corner of 2nd and Spring streets
Highlands, NC 28741
(828) 526-4929

Visit us at www.WarthConstruction.com



• CLASSIFIEDS •

Free Classified Ads for items
FOR SALE less than \$1,000.

All other terms:

20 words for \$5; \$2 for
each 10-word increment.

Email copy to:

highlandseditor@aol.com
or FAX to 1-866-212-8913

Send check to:

Highlands' Newspaper
P.O. Box 2703
Highlands, NC 28741
828-526-0782

HELP WANTED

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.

FRONT DESK REPRESENTATIVE
position available. Year round/full time.
Must be friendly, enjoy working with the
public and good at multi tasking. Send
Resume' to P.O. Box 1060, email
info@hamptoninn-nc.com. Call Sabrina
for Interview 828-526-5899.

PIANIST NEEDED for sweet little
mountain chapel. Holy Family Lutheran
Church, Highlands, is seeking a pianist for
one service per week, Sundays at 10:30
a.m. Piano/keyboard only, no organ, no
choir. Will pay stipend plus mileage.
Please contact Chaplain Margaret Howell
at 704) 516-7893.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH is
accepting resumes for a part-time office
assistant. Computer skills, people skills
and creative abilities are required. 828-
526-4685 or office@cbchighlands.com

CHESTNUT HILL IS CURRENTLY
SEEKING A RESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT
in a 26-bed ASSISTED LIVING CENTER.
Benefits. Pre-employment drug screening
and background check. EOE. Please apply
in person at 64 Clubhouse Trail. Highlands,
NC 28741 or call for an appointment at
828-526-5251.

CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS
seeking a courtesy officer. Benefits, pre-
employment drug screening and
background check. EOE. Apply in person
at 64 Clubhouse Trail. Highlands, NC
29741. (828) 526-5251.

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.

RN'S at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital
and Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. Full,
Part-time and PRN positions available for
12 hour day and night shifts. Excellent
wage scale, with shift and weekend
differentials. Full benefits, or the option to
opt out of benefits for an increase in pay,
available after 30 days of full-time
employment. We are now offering part-
time employees, working at least 24 hours
a week, medical insurance. Pre-
employment screening required. Call
Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or
apply online at www.hchospital.org.

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

EMERGENCY ROOM RN'S 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.

WORK WANTED

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-
0910. 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.

FOR RENT

1 BEDROOM. 1 BATH. Furnished
Apt. 1 1/2 miles from downtown. \$700 a
month plus utilities & satellite. Call 828-
526-3612 or 526-4598.

BUILDING FOR LEASE.
Hearthstone Center, Hwy 64 in Cashiers,
2,052 sq feet, great retail office location,
plenty of parking, Call (828) 243-2939 or
(828) 743-9454 for more information.

REAT 3 BED/2 BATH HOME IN
MIRROR LAKE area, less than 1 mile
from Main Street. Available monthly/
weekly Call 770-977-5692.

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.

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

RETAIL/ OFFICE SPACE - 800 -
3,000 Sq Ft. Located in Highlands Plaza.
Entrances on Hwy. 28 & 106. Great
Visibility. High Traffic. Abundant Parking.

Reasonable Terms. Best location in town.
Call 864-630-0808 for info.

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

MAIN ST APT- available now
spacious 1/1 with full kitchen, fully
furnished, central heat/air, small pets OK,
\$700 mo. 1st/last+ \$350 deposit. 526-3363

ON MIRROR LAKE - Charming 3
bed, 2 bath. Huge sunroom, stone fire-
place, 3 decks, canoe, furnished. Avail-
able Nov-May. \$1500 a month plus utili-
ties. Call 770-435-0678.

COTTAGE FOR RENT - 1BR, 1BA
in town @ Chestnut Cottages. Private,
screen porch, Heat/AC, FP, extra sleep-
ing 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 avail-
able. \$2,495 a week. Call 912-230-7202.

THE LODGE ON MIRROR LAKE -
Fish or canoe from deck. Available week-
ly, monthly, 3-day min. Call 828-342-2302.

ON LAKE SEQUOYAH - Three mas-
ter suites with jetted tubs and showers,
sleeping nook with private bath, 4 fireplac-
es, 2 living areas, newly renovated. Pri-
vate dock with canoe and firepit. Call 828-
342-2302.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT FOR SALE, .90 acre, drive
graded, 2 bed septic approved, Shared
well, off Turtle Pond and Dendy Orchard
Road, 4 miles from center of town \$39,000.
Call Ty at 828-577-9261

SCALY MOUNTAIN Building lots,
views, creeks, wooded. 2-5 acres, start at
\$150,000 by owner, owner financing
available. (404) 831-0222 or
gonzobean@aol.com. 3/6/08

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

MOUNT VERON, SOUTH GEOR-
GIA -- 126.88 +/- acres. 4 BR/3/BA, home,
creek, lake. \$460,000. Call: 478-552-6677
or 706-401-9035. Taylor Group Realty.
www.landofgeorgia.com

TENNILLE, CENTRAL GEORGIA -
58.71 acres. 5 BR/3.5 BA, brick home, 7-
board fencing, barn pecan orchard. 11-
acre lake. \$799,000. Call: 478-552-6677
or 678-313-5090. www.landofgeorgia.com

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 log-
ging road as your driveway. \$62,500 Call
526-9021 or 787-2307.

BUCK CREEK; 1600 sq.ft. finished
basement, creek front. Handicapped ac-
cessible w/elevator; 3 BR 2 large

• CLASSIFIEDS •

BA.\$329,000. 828-524-6038

IN TOWN – 3 bedroom, 2 bath, stream, large level yard. Easy walk to Main Street. \$450,000, by owner. Call 828-226-6123. 12/21

HOUSE FOR SALE (ISLAMORADA, FLORIDA) – Two bedroom, one and ½ bath conch house for sale at Mile Marker 86, near Founders Park on Oceanside. House sits on a 8,520 square foot lot in a great subdivision with a public boat ramp on the next street over. Founders Park, which is across the street, has a park with a boat ramp, marina, pool, beach, tennis courts, etc. Great deal — owner moving out of state. \$475,000. Call 305-852-4369 for more info.

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

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

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

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

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

LOTS – Exclusive RiverRock, Tuckasegee Village: 2.1 acre Lot 48, great building site, adjoins horse farm. \$364,900; and THE premier view Lot 34, best view lot development. \$799,900 Call HUTCH (706) 831-0892 owner/agent.

ITEMS FOR SALE

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.

MAYTAG WASHER AND DRYER \$200.00 FOR BOTH 526-9107.

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.

ANTIQUE FURNITURE FOR SALE. Double size spool bed \$300. Queen Anne sofa, 2 side chairs and rocking chair \$1,000. Will sell separately. Call Bob at SweetTreats 828 526-9822 or 828 369-6263.

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

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 fireplace screen, (still in box,) polished brass finish, fits fireplace opening Height 24 3/4 " - 29 3/4". Width 30" to 37 1/2," \$125. Call 828-371-2999

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

2004 ROCKWOOD POP-UP CAMPER. Sleeps 6, mattresses, Heated, Air Conditioned, Awning, Outdoor Grill. Very Good Condition \$3200. 828 342 1999, 706 782 9579.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE FOR SALE – 2002 Discovery – 38P Cat 330 HP. Immaculate. Double Slide. Smoke/pet free. Original owner. All options Electric awnings. W/D. Six new batteries. Extended warranty. Brake Pro. Falcon Hitch. 27,000 miles. \$90,000. Call 743-5593.

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

KNITTING INSTRUCTIONS – in my home – \$10 a session. Call 787-2307.

AFFORDABLE HOME IMPROVEMENT – Tile, Painting, Decks, Siding, Repairs Etc. Licensed & Insured General Contractor For Estimates call Scott @ 828-577-9261

FIREWOOD "Nature Dired" Call 526-2251.

CUTTING EDGE TREE SERVICE - "Let us go out on a Limb for You." We spe-

cialize 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 cleanup, 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.

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

BUSINESSES FOR SALE

HIGHLANDS RADIO SHACK IS FOR SALE! Own a successful year-round business on Main Street. Asking \$399,000. Call Thea or Chuck at 828-526-3350.

WANTED

WHITE MALE, AGE 48, looking for female companion, cook. Call Donny. 706-335-6496 or write P.O. Box 411, Ila, GA 30647.1/24/08

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.

**Needlepoint
of
Highlands**



Barbara B. Cusachs

828-526-3907
1-800-526-3902

**Highlands
Office Supply**

- Complete line of office supplies
- Laminating • Fax Service
- Greeting Cards
- Laser paper
- Ink Cartridges

"It's good to do business in Highlands"

87 Highlands Plaza
526-3379
FAX: 526-3309

Call for our 2008 Media Pack.
Spend your advertising dollar where it will do the most good...
in Highlands' Newspaper!
Call 526-0782 or email: highlandseditor@aol.com

• OUTDOOR - INDOOR REMODEL-RENEW •



WILHITES of Walhalla
Drapery, Upholstery, Fashion & Quilting Fabric
Waverly • Braemore • P Kaufman
Swavelle • Richloom • Barrow

Open Mon.-Fri. • 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat. • 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

851 Highlands Highway, Walhalla, SC
864-638-8498 or toll-free: 800-444-5743

Don's Hardwood Flooring
WHOLESALE PRICING
Selling DIRECT to Builders, Contractors and Installers
• Solid Wood & Pre-engineered • All Species

828-226-0886

828-743-5451 Village Square in Sapphire

HomePlace Blinds & Design Of Sapphire Valley

Custom Window Coverings – Heritage® hardwood shutters
Duette® honeycomb shades, Country Woods® Collection™
Custom Closet Systems, Unique Home Accessories



**HunterDouglas
Gallery**



Dan, Dan, The Carpet Man
Specializing in Commercial and Residential

If it goes on the floor,
we'll bring it to your door!
Carpet - Vinyl - Hardwood - Ceramic

Daniel & Brenda
Hamilton

Call: (828) 349-9009 or 342-1740

Cub Scout Pack 207 observes Scout Week 2008



Scout Week is the week Boy and Cub scouts celebrate the anniversary of scouting in the United States. Pack 207 observed the week with a window display at The Little Flower Shop. Scout Sunday, held Feb. 2 and 10, is a tradition where scouts and leaders dress in uniform and play a public role in their church service.



The pack has an annual Pinewood Derby race. This year there were 21 cars participating. Derby winners were Charlie Underwood 1st Place, John Brassard 2nd Place, and Austin Forrester 3rd Place.

... SCHOOL continued from page 16

time of the planning stage, expansions were also noted to be needed at Macon Middle School, South Macon Elementary and Cartoogechaye elementary schools, ultimately making each of those campuses larger than current capacity.

Due to Gooder's allegations, on Tuesday, Feb. 12, Terry Bell, director of auxiliary services of Macon County Schools, contacted Ken Phelps, school planning consultant for Public School Capital Building Fund, Long Range Plans at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction to confirm the receipt of this planning document

and the status of the Macon County Board of Education being in or out of compliance with G.S. 152C-521.

"According to Mr. Phelps, Macon County has submitted this plan meeting all requirements under state statute for a five-year plan and may continue with current plans for school replacement, closings, renovations and new school construction," said Brigman.

For additional information regarding state requirements for school construction or verification on the status of the Macon

• See SCHOOL page 26

Highlands School Perfect Attendance 3rd Six Weeks 2007-2008

GB – J. Chalker

Grace Crowe
Gracie Forrester
Destin Gearhart
Kedra McCall
Jared Shearl
Magdalene Sullivan

K – J. McClellan

Cyndi Coppage
Carmen Dalton
Pablo Jimenez

1st – D. Sizemore

Alexis Damian
Betty Garcia
Luke Nix
Kaitlyn Wolfrey

2nd – C. Cox

Manuel Contreras
Juan Garcia
Cole Satterwhite
Taylor Welch

2nd – M. Miller

Brittany Chastain
Jose' Jimenez

3rd – C. Murphy

Ryan Houser
Tucker Johnson
Danielle Mathis
Michael Montgomery
Adam Schiffli
Megan Vinson
Jackson Vroon
Taylor Vroon
Jamie Walsh
Kelsey Woodard

3rd – J. Archer

Nicholas Boggs
Sandra Garcia
Emily Mathis
Dillan Medlin

4th – D. West

Michael Beck
Sierra Nylund
Ben Potter
Tasha Thurmond
Ali Mae Walsh
Colin Weller

4th – D. Struble

Chase Grant
Jesse Machuca
Carrie McClure

5th – T. Hedden

Whitney Billingsley
Grace Brassard
Preston Chastain
Andrew Figel
Veronica Garcia
Kassie Vinson
Josh Wolfrey

6th – S. Mayer

Ellie Cate Beavers

Carli Calloway
Cara Hedden
Tyler Munger
Matthew Rodriguez

7th – E. Woods

Kalyn Billingsley
Autumn Chastain
Rebecca Johnson
Tyler Owens
Rogelio Pioquinto
Cristell Ruiz
Felippe Ruiz

8th – M. Lane

Isaac Beavers
Tim Fogle
Cory Ramey
Cody St. Germain

8th – S. Massey

Juliane Buras
Fabiola Diaz
Kaitlin Lewis
Stephanie' Smart
Gabrielle Tilson

9th Grade

Tucker Bates
Amy Fogle
Elizabeth Gordon
Cody Houser
Spencer Houston
Marlee McCall
Ricky Reyes
Courtney Rogers
Bevan Schiffli
Cord Strawn

10th Grade

Eli Dryman
Jessica Gagne
Brice Jenkins
Shelby Johnson
Keely Milroy
Ladonna Rodriguez
Olen Schiffli
Chris St. Germain
Bobbi Jo Talley

11th Grade

Andrew Billingsley
Caden Brown
Will Edwards
Casey Jenkins
Hunter Leffler
Luke McClellan
Matt McClellan
Danielle Reese
Griselda Velasco Sanchez

12th Grade

TC Creighton
Martha Damian
Jessica Dryman
Thomas Forrester
Amanda Parmelee
Taylor Stinson



Ms. Cox's 2nd Grade Class



Ms. Chalker's Great Beginnings Class



Ms. Sizemore's 1st Grade Class



Ms. Miller's 2nd Grade Class



Ms. Archer's 3rd Grade Class



Ms. Struble's 4th Grade Class



Ms. Hedden's
5th Grade
Class

Below: Ms.
Murphy's 3rd
Grade Class



Ms. McClellan's Kindergarten Class

Highlands School Honor Roll 3rd Six Weeks 2007-2008

4th – D. West

"A" Chance Gilbert
"A" Colin Weller
"AB" Remy Adrian
"AB" Kyle Gabbard
"AB" Chase Harris
"AB" Sarah Henry
"AB" Ben Potter
"AB" Dylan Vinson

4th – D. Struble

"A" Whitney Billingsley
"A" Carter Potts
"AB" Robbie Calloway
"AB" Anilu Diaz
"AB" Ahzah Kennemore
"AB" Randall McClure
"AB" Carrie McClure
"AB" Allie Wilkes

5th – T. Hedden

"A" Valerie Billingsley
"A" Allison Bolt
"A" Grace Brassard
"A" Anne Marie Crowe
"A" Kenan Lewis
"A" April Moss
"A" Philip Murphy
"A" Ivy Satterwhite
"A" Taylor Schmitt
"A" Josh Wolfrey
"AB" Alex Bronaugh
"AB" Soren Christiansen
"AB" Craig Dalton
"AB" Veronica Garcia
"AB" Claudia Lewis
"AB" Kirstyn Owen
"AB" Jessica Tilson
"AB" Kassie Vinson

6th – S. Mayer

"A" Ellie Cate Beavers
"A" Emily Gabbard
"A" Emily Shuler
"A" Ryan Vinson
"AB" Carli Calloway
"AB" Craig Forster
"AB" Sydney Harris
"AB" Tatiana Schmitt
"AB" Jordon Speed

7th – E. Woods

"A" Rebecca Johnson

"A" Xan Potter

"AB" Corbin Hawkins
"AB" Lindsay Wagner
"AB" Sydney Wagner

8th – Massey & Lane

"A" Isaac Beavers
"A" Copeland Hardin
"A" Kaitlin Lewis
"A" Emily Murphy
"A" Cai Roman
"AB" Juliane Buras
"AB" Fabiola Diaz
"AB" Kim Machuca
"AB" Emily Munger
"AB" Logan Schmitt
"AB" Danielle Shomper
"AB" Cody St. Germain

9th Grade

"A" Tucker Bates
"A" Avee Graham
"A" Marlee McCall
"AB" Amy Fogle
"AB" Devon Potter
"AB" Courtney Rogers
"AB" Bevan Schiffli
"AB" Cord Strawn

10th Grade

"A" Brice Jenkins
"A" Shelby Johnson
"A" Beverly Nix
"A" Kate Marie Parks
"AB" Katie Durham
"AB" Sarah Hedden

11th Grade

"A" Carolyn Hornsby
"A" Michael Nix
"A" Griselda Sanchez
"AB" Will Edwards
"AB" Alex Hedden
"AB" Casey Jenkins
"AB" Lucy Ruiz

12th Grade

"A" Jessica Dryman
"A" Kyle Lassiter
"AB" Michael Grabe
"AB" Katie Pierce
"AB" Greg Porter
"AB" Taylor Stinson



Ms. West's 4th Grade Class

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going

- Cardio Dance Class. \$5 per class, 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 Community Church, 242 Hwy 107 N. in Cashiers. Call 888-764-0365 or go to the website: www.ncmana.org.
- Step Aerobics at the Rec Park, 4-5 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays. \$5 per class.
- 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 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. If you're interested in playing but can't be here this Wednesday please let Carroll Harris know. 526-3376.

• Gospel of John Bible Study Pastor Todd Struble is leading a study this spring on the fourth Gospel (using the Ebird Bible Study Series) Wednesday Supper begins at 5:30 with the Bible Study at 6:15 - 7:15.

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

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

Every Third Wednesday

• Study sessions at the Universal Unitarian Fellowship Hall in Franklin. A \$5 soup-supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9964.

Every Thursday

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

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 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, Feb. 14

• Franklin Community Blood Drive at First Baptist Church (69 Iotta Street, Franklin) 12:30-5:30 p.m. Please call 369-9559 for more information or to schedule an appointment. All presenting donors can enter a drawing for free flowers for a year!

Friday, Feb. 15

• Improv has returned to the Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main. 2007 was a sad year for our little village, not an improv game to be played anywhere. Now to fill that awful void The Instant Theatre Company presents an all new show, ITC LIVE!, and playing every Friday and Saturday night at 8 p.m. in February. For tickets and further information please call the ITC box office at 828-342-9197.

Saturday, Feb. 16

• Improv has returned to the Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main. 2007 was a sad year for our little village, not an improv game to be played anywhere. Now to fill that awful void The Instant Theatre Company presents an all new show, ITC LIVE!, and playing every Friday and Saturday night at 8 p.m. in February. For tickets and further information please call the ITC box office at 828-342-9197.

• Hot Dog Supper & Blue Grass Music Benefit at the Satolah Fire Dept at 5 p.m. Benefit for Junior and Margie Crowe. Featuring Curtis Blackwell & the Dixie Bluegrass Boys and The Foxfire Boys. Raffle tickets on sale for an antique rifle

New guy, old guy in HCP's 'Lend Me A Tenor'

There's a new guy in the Highlands Community Players upcoming play, *Lend Me a Tenor*, and an old guy who's been in 20 HCP plays since the Players came into being in 1995.

The new actor — that is, new to HCP — is Bob Tietze. He has not acted on the stage in more than 30 years, but he brings with him a good deal of acting and theater experience from earlier years. In Largo, FL, he performed with the Footlights Theater from 1966 to 1971 and in 1972 -- '73 for a community theater in Syracuse, NY, mainly in musicals, such as

Mame, *Oklahoma*, and *The Pajama Game*. He was also a valued backstage worker for these theaters and helped to renovate an old church building in Largo into a workable theater.

His wife Phyllis was also instrumental in the building conversion, selecting the lighting instruments and lighting board, which she operated for most of the productions.

Before moving to Highlands the Tietzes came by way of Columbia and Pendleton, S.C. They bought a house on Flat Mountain Road in 1972 and moved here full time in 1996 when Bob retired from a 30-year career as a salesman, the last 20 with Dow Chemical Company. The couple has a son and a daughter and three grandchildren, all living in South Carolina.

Singer that he is, Bob has joined the Performing Arts Center's Male Chorus in Highlands and sings in the Presbyterian Church choir along with his wife. He also enjoys snow skiing and has plied the slopes all over Europe, Canada, and the U.S., but now skis mainly at Cataloochee, NC.

And now for the "old guy," Stuart Armor, who is performing with the new guy in *Lend Me a Tenor* in his 20th play with the Highlands Community Players. Stuart is a versatile, talented actor with a flair for comedy and accents. And no wonder he's so good at accents: he can speak sev-

eral languages: Spanish, French, Russian, Bulgarian, Lithuanian, Italian, Romanian, Portuguese, British, and American!

Originally from Baltimore, Stuart spent many of his growing-up years in the Highlands area where he now owns and operates The Brick Oven and Movie Stop. In his younger days, he wandered around in Arizona, Kenya, Colorado, Scotland, Virginia and Mexico, learning about various esoteric things, such as

dung eating beetles, hyraxes, methane production, medieval shoe manufacturing, the care and feeding of circus animals, yeast breads, kudzu powder production, and how to tell amusing tall tales.

He eventually came back to Highlands just in time to be drafted into one of the Community Players earlier productions, *The Fardale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of A Christmas Carol*, in which he appeared, quite fetchingly, he says, in a rather stunning evening gown of blue satin with gold trim.

But that was not his first theatrical adventure. Well-informed sources (his mom) say he was absolutely adorable as a Christmas elf in the kindergarten pageant with little pointy ears made of florist putty. Since then, it hasn't taken much to convince him to get on stage and be a murder victim, General Patton, British doctor, Asian house boy, weeping Spaniard or, many times, the ever popular "not terribly bright boy friend who rarely ever gets the girl."

Along with the rest of the cast, both guys, Bob and Stuart, can be seen in *Lend Me a Tenor*, opening at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands on Thursday, February 28, and running through Sunday, March 9. Tickets will be available beginning Feb. 23. Call for reservations at 526-8084.



Bob Tietze and Stuart Armor in HCP's "Lend Me A Tenor."

Ruby Cinemas

Hwy. 441, Franklin • 524-2076

Feb. 15-21

JUMPER rated PG-13

Fri: (4:15), 7:15, 9:15
Sat & Sun: (2:15), (4:15), 7:15, 9:15
Mon - Thurs: (4:15), 7:15

THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES

rated PG

Fri: (4), 7, 9
Sat & Sun: (2), (4), 7, 9
Mon - Thurs: (4), 7

FOOL'S GOLD

rated PG-13

Fri: (4:10), 7:10, 9:10
Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:10), 7:10, 9:10
Mon - Thurs (4:10), 7:10

RAMBO rated R

Fri: 7:05, 9:05
Sat & Sun: 7:05, 9:05
Mon - Thurs: 7:05

THE BUCKET LIST

rated PG-13

Fri (4:05)
Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:05)
Mon - Thurs: (4:05)

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

(Sears Roebuck 1st edition single-shot), a load of crusher-run gravel, or a \$50 gas certificate from the Clayton Food Mart (old Twenty-Penny.) Cakes and homemade goodies also for sale.

- Free Health Tracks Mini Fair at the Highlands Civic Center from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information on the month's events, call HealthTracks at (828) 526-1FIT (1348), Monday through Friday during regular business hours.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 4-mile moderate hike on the Appalachian Trail to the Wayah Shelter and return on the Bartram Trail and the Jones property road. Meet at the Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 9 a.m., returning 2-3 p.m. Bring water, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people. Call leader Larry Jelley, 524-4200, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Sunday, Feb. 17

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.5-mile hike on Black Mtn. in the Jones Creek area on forest service roads with an elevation change of 300 feet. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 p.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Tuesday, Feb. 19

- HIARPT morning discussions are 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center with lunch to follow for those interested. All are welcome to attend, although we do ask that the material to be discussed be read prior to the discussions. For more information, please contact Creighton Peden 526-4038. SNOW DAY; or "Taking Science on Faith" by Paul Davies. New York Times, Nov. 24, 2007. Coordinator: Creighton Peden.

Wednesday, Feb. 20

- Spring Soccer Registration at Highlands Recreation Park from 5-7 p.m. Cost is \$40 for fall registered players, \$50 for new or non-registered players. The season is April through June. Games will be played on Sunday afternoons. Age divisions are determined by the child's age as of July 31, 2007. All new players need a copy of a birth certificate. For more information, call Christy Weller at 526-9931.

Thursday, Feb. 21

- Health Tracks Open House, featuring a light buffet lunch to kick-off its new Heart Smart program. Heart Smart mini fair at Highlands Civic Center from noon to 2 p.m. For more information on the month's events, call HealthTracks at (828) 526-1FIT (1348), Monday through Friday during regular business hours.

Friday, Feb. 22

- Improv has returned to the Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main. 2007 was a sad year for our little village, not an improv game to be played anywhere. Now to fill that awful void The Instant Theatre Company presents an all new show, ITC LIVE!, and playing every Friday and Saturday night at 8 p.m. in February. For tickets and further information please call the ITC box office at 828-342-9197.

Saturday, Feb. 23

- Improv has returned to the Instant Theatre

Company's Studio on Main. 2007 was a sad year for our little village, not an improv game to be played anywhere. Now to fill that awful void The Instant Theatre Company presents an all new show, ITC LIVE!, and playing every Friday and Saturday night at 8 p.m. in February. For tickets and further information please call the ITC box office at 828-342-9197.

- Highlands Annual Chili Cook-off, Salsa, & Cornbread Competition is scheduled for Saturday from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Community Building.

Saturday, Feb. 23

- Free Health Tracks Mini Fair at the Cashiers Community Library from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information on the month's events, call HealthTracks at (828) 526-1FIT (1348), Monday through Friday during regular business hours.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3.5 mile hike to Whiteside Mountain and the Devil's Courthouse with an elevation change of 250 feet. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. or the Whiteside parking lot at 9:45 a.m. Drive 10 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Monday & Tuesday, Feb. 25-26

- Southwestern Community College's Small Business Center will present ServSafe from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Bradford Hall Room 100 at the Jackson Campus. This National Restaurant Association-approved course will cover all aspects of safe food handling in a food service environment. Registration deadline for the course is Friday, Feb. 8. The cost of the course is \$55, with a \$99 materials fee. Interested participants can call the Small Business Center at 828-488-6413.

Tuesday, Feb. 26

- HIARPT morning discussions are 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center with lunch to follow for those interested. All are welcome to attend, although we do ask that the material to be discussed be read prior to the discussions. For additional information, please contact Creighton Peden 526-4038.

Tuesday, Feb. 26

- "Once a Soldier" by David Craig. Magazine of Columbia University, Fall 2007, pp. 25-29. Will be circulated at previous meetings. Coordinator: Carole Light.

- "Take Charge of Your Health" Lecture series by Cashiers-Highlands Chiropractic & Acupuncture presents a lecture series - "Cholesterol - good fats, bad fats, essential oils - oh my! All lectures are FREE and held at Cashiers Chiropractic & Wellness in Laurel Terrace just east on U.S. 64 from the crossroads. Please call 828-743-9070 or 828-526-3709 to make a reservation.

Thurs.-Sun., Feb. 28-March 2

- HCP's "Lend Me a Tenor" at the Performing Arts Center.

Friday-Sunday, March 7-9

- HCP's "Lend Me a Tenor" at the Performing Arts Center.

Thursday, March 6

- NAMI Appalachian South will hold an organizational meeting with a brief program at the home of Mary Ann Widenhouse, 24 Cardinal Lane, Otto. Directions: Follow 441 South to Firehouse Rd. (Otto

• See EVENTS page 23

- A Review -



The cast of ITC LIVE! now performing at The Instant Theatre.

Troupe shines at new improv technique at Instant Theatre

The new version of improv going on at the Instant Theatre Friday and Saturday nights, dubbed ITC LIVE!, brings a whole new dimension to ITC offerings.

Jillian Burfete, director of ITC LIVE!, on leave from stints in Chicago where she studied with Second City and Improv Olympic, has taught the ITC group — famous for its "Little Entertainments" — a whole new way to approach and perform improv.

During each performance, which begin at 8 p.m., audiences are treated first to a fascinating monologue by Bonnie Earman which is prompted by a suggestion from the audience. Earman somehow manages to weave the prompt into a true story and based on her story, the cast then jumps into the "long form" of improv.

Outside Chicago, New York and San Francisco, "long form" improv is virtually unknown. However, Highlands' audiences who have attended the ITC's Evenings of Little Entertainments, Little Entertainments, and Cocktail Hour Theatre are familiar with "short form" improv.

The long form is just double the fun.

What happens is the cast of six, which breaks into couples, takes Earman's story and weaves it into three ongoing vignettes which all together last 45 minutes.

However, each couple must be ready to stop and start again when prompted by another couple who can change the vignette at any time simply by making some kind of disturbance as they walk across the stage.

What happens is you get completely engrossed with one vignette to have it suddenly stop, but then another equally engrossing vignette starts and then it

stops for yet another until you've actually watched three mini-plays with a beginning, a middle and if there's time, an end, before it's all over.

Earman says the process is bewildering because it works. "It's almost telepathy on the part of the actors because there's no script or rehearsal," she said.

As Burfete explains it, "While understanding the rules is very necessary the 'long form' is most interested in exploring and developing the relationships of the characters within the scene to produce something beautiful and fluid that, to many, seems to have been written in advance. I usually compare it to a kind of made-up-on-the-spot three act play that develops from a simple audience suggestion. If all goes according to plan, characters are developed, explored and interwoven into a sometimes touching, often hilarious, romp of fun."

ITC LIVE! performs the "long form" in Act I and the "short form" in Act II.

Personally, I preferred the long form because I became engrossed in the three short comedies. That's not to say the short form wasn't good. It was, absolutely. But for obvious reasons, the long form has more substance.

In any case, the job this improv cast does is really good. Each year, the group becomes more polished, the outcome more professional. Under the tutelage of Burfete the cast and the audience have entered a new dimension.

Don't miss, Jillian Burfete, Becky Schilling, Madeleine Davis, Scott R. Paxton, Danny Osbourne, Kaley McCormack and Bonnie Earman in ITC LIVE! Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. in ITC's Studio on Main at 310 Oak Square. Tickets are \$20. Call 828-342-9197.

- Kim Lewicki

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Community Building and Fire Station). Turn right on Cardinal Lane off Firehouse Road. Call Ann 828 369-7385 or Mary Ann 828 524-1355 for information.

Starting Monday, March 10

• Family-to-Family free 12-week Education Program will be offered by NAMI Appalachian South at Southwestern Community College, Macon campus from 6:30-9 p.m. The class is for family members of loved ones with a mental illness. NAMI Appalachian South is an affiliate of the state National Alliance on Mental Illness. Please contact Ann Nandrea 828 369-7385 or Mary Ann Widenhouse 828-524-1355 to register or for more information. Some comments from previous participants: "Valuable information about Brain Disorders," "Let me know

that I am not alone." "Learned more about coping." "That there is help and hope."

Tuesday, March 18

• Hunting Heritage Super Fund Auction and Dinner will help benefit the National Wild Turkey Conservation at 6 p.m. at the Dillard House Conference Center in Dillard, GA. All ticket holders are eligible to win prizes and lots of items will be

auctioned off. Tickets are \$55 and help support wildlife management on public, private and corporate lands and preserve hunting as sport.

Sunday, March 25

• First Presbyterian Church will host an old-fashioned hymn-sing at 4 p.m. Those attending may choose a hymn from the 1938 Cokesbury Hymnal. The song leader will be Stell Huie and Angie Jen-

• SERVICE DIRECTORY •

**Climate Controlled
Self Storage**
• Units Available •
Highlands Storage Village
828-526-4555

Mountain Fitness SPECIAL!
828-526-9083
New Year's Resolution Special
\$35/mth – If you prepay for one year
Open 24/7!
Let us help you get in shape for the new year!
460 Carolina Way

Personal Training Winter Special
2 for \$75 or 3 for \$90
Take home a personalized write-up of your work-out.
Also: **Cardio Dance Class**
Sweat it off! MWF 8:30 AM
Highlands Rec Park
AFAACertified Personal Fitness Trainer: 342-5029



CUTTING EDGE
LAWNCARE & LANDSCAPE
Charlie Hyland
OWNER
37 HIGH POINT DRIVE
FRANKLIN, NC 28734
828-342-5174

**Nature Dried
Fire wood**
Call: 526-2251

Quality, Integrity, Service
Ledford's Landscaping & Maintenance, Inc
29 Lickskillet Road, Franklin, NC 28734
Office (828)524-6959 • Fax (828)524-9751
Email ledfordslm@verizon.net
Mention this ad and receive 5% off!

**Mountain
Rayz** Tanning & Nail Salon
616 Pierson Drive • Highlands
526-8266
Call for appointment or Walk-in



Waterfalls, Ponds, Stone Hot Tubs
The finest native landscapes in the area since 1984. Eco-friendly designs from the boisterous "Falls on Main" to the trickling Zen of the "Old Highlands Inn" garden and the most beautiful private gardens in Highlands.
View online at greenthumbarts.com.
One of a kind. One at a Time.
828-526-5981

Kenneth M. Crowe
RESIDENTIAL CONTRACTOR
Repair & Maintenance
(828) 526-5943 HIGHLANDS, NC

WNC Remodelers, Inc.
All your home improvement needs from your yard to your roof.
Locally owned & operated.
Fully insured. Call for free estimate.
(828) 526-4599 or (828) 200-9550.

**Edwards
Electrical Service
of Highlands**
Call: 526-5147

Falling Waters
LANDSCAPING
• Leaf Cleanup
• Property Maintenance
• Rock Work
• Water Features
• Erosion Control
• Land Clearing
TRAVIS VANHOOGEN
(828) 342-2368
FALLINGWATERSNC@YAHOO.COM



Allan Dearth & Sons
Generator
Sales & Service, Inc.
828-526-9325
Cell: 828-200-1139
email: allandearth@msn.com

Don't Scream...
Get the help you need with
TempStaffers!
Quality help for a day, a week, a season.
526-4946 • 342-9312



**Runaround
Sue
Pet Sitting**
• Healthy Homemade Treats
• Birthday Parties
• Pet Photos
• Hand-crocheted Dog Clothing
Sue Laferty
P.O. Box 1991
Highlands, NC 28741
(828) 526-0844
slaferty@aol.com



Local chef to demonstrate healthy recipes at Heart Fairs

Cooking healthy doesn't have to mean giving up good tasting food.

Area chef David Sanborn will be demonstrating that fact at two cooking demonstrations later this month as part of activities being held around the area to celebration American Heart Month. The cooking classes — one in Highlands and one in Cashiers — are part of mini heart fairs being hosted by Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Those fairs will also include a chance to talk with local cardiologist Carl M. Curtiss, MD. FACC, get tips on eating healthier, exercise, and partake of a free brunch. The first mini fair will be held Saturday, Feb. 16 at the Highlands Civic Center, from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.. A similar event will take place the following Saturday (Feb. 23) at the Cashiers Community Library in Cashiers. Sanborn's cooking demonstration begins at 11:30 a.m. In each case and the brunch follows at noon, and it's all completely free. No reservations are required.

Until recently, Sanborn owned and operated Sid and Charlie's restaurant at the Mountain Laurel Shoppes in Cashiers. Prior to that he was executive chef at Wade Hampton Country Club in Cashiers for two years. He recently became head chef and kitchen manager at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital as part of a major effort by the hospital to upgrade its food service.

"I'm very happy to now be a part of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and to be benefiting the communities I love so much," he says.

Sanborn has been working with hospital dietitian Margret Downs, RD, and HealthTracks director Yvonne Smith, RD, MHS, to plan the fare for the cooking demonstrations. They will be assisting Sanborn and offering tips on how to cook heart healthy foods. Those attending the brunch will be able to sample the recipes being demonstrated earlier in the morning, along with a number of other good-

ies. On the menu are quiches, breakfast casseroles and healthy breads.

Copies of healthy recipes will also be available. In conjunction with Heart Month, area libraries are also featuring displays on healthy cooking books available in their collections.

A native of Florida, Sanborn actually grew up in Highlands and attended Highlands School, where he lettered in basketball and other sports. He graduated in 1986, and later married his wife Dawn, a cheerleader from long-time rival Blue Ridge School, who has worked as a physical therapy assistant at the hospital for the last eight years. The couple has two daughters, Sidney and Erin Charlie.

Sanborn has seen virtually every aspect of the restaurant business during his career, from beginning as a dishwasher, to becoming an executive chef, to being an owner.

"We are really pleased to have David join our team here at the hospital," says hospital President and CEO Ken Shull. "He is already made a tremendous difference in the quality of the hospital's food and in building the pride and morale of the entire dietary department. We appreciate his willingness to share his cooking expertise with the public at our heart fairs."

Each of the two mini-heart fairs

opens at 10:30 a.m., when visitors will have the chance to visit several booths and talk with experts such as Curtiss and others on things they can do to reduce their risk factors for coronary artery disease and live healthier.

In addition to the two fairs, HealthTracks, the hospital's fitness and cardiac rehabilitation program, will hold a special open house on Thursday, Feb. 21, featuring a free "light" buffet lunch to kick off its new Heart Smart program.

Similar information will be available at the HealthTracks open house on Feb. 21, but participants will have the opportunity to see

the facility, talk with staff, and try out some of its exercise equipment. Several exercise demonstrations are also planned for the "drop-in" event, which begins a noon and lasts until 2 p.m. Staff will also be available to answer questions about the new Heart Smart program, which is especially designed to help those with cardiac risk factors reduce their risk and min-



Chef David Sanborn

• BUSINESS NEWS •

Century 21 names Garren, Matej, Hudson & Shipp top producers

The following CENTURY 21 Mountain Lifestyles agents were top producers for their office during the month of January:

In the Cashiers office, Cathy Garren, broker/owner, was named Top Sales Agent and Elizabeth Matej, broker associate was named Top Listing Agent.

Cathy Garren received the Bronze Producer award for her production in 2007 as well as the Top Listing by Volume award for her office last year. Elizabeth Matej received the Silver Producer award for her production last year, as well as the Top

Listing by Units and the Top Sales by Volume, Units & Production for her office last year.

In the Highlands office Jerry Hudson was named Top Sales Agent and Bob Shipp, broker associate, was named Top Listing Agent.

Jerry Hudson was recognized as the "Rising Star" in his office for his exemplary character and performance as a relatively new real estate agent last year. Bob Shipp received the Bronze Producer award for his production in 2007.

"Heart of the High Country"

Highlands' Own
TV Show...on Northland
Cable Channel 14.



Everyday at 8 a.m., noon, 5 p.m.,
7 p.m., 10 p.m., & midnight.
The Visitor Information Program
airs at 7 am, 9 am, 4 pm, 6 pm,
9 pm, and 11 pm.

A PROMISE FROM
WAYAH INSURANCE GROUP

Steve, Lori, Judy, Janice, Pam, Lila, Leesa

"If we can't offer you equal or better coverage with an equal or better price, we'll tell you. Give us a try. We want what's best for you."

AUTO • BUSINESS • HOME • LIFE • HEALTH
472 Carolina Way • Highlands, N.C.
828-526-3713 • 800-333-5188

FIRE MOUNTAIN
Inn • Cabins • Treehouses

*A Unique Mountaintop Hideaway
Spectacular Mountain Views*

www.firemt.com
800 • 775 • 4446

Wholesale Down Comforters & More!

- Down comforters
- Down blankets
- 600 & 440 thread count sheet sets
- Feather beds
- New shipment of sheets

526-4905

Next to Farmers Market on the Main Street side

Monday-Saturdays
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Best of the Bunch



Everything Must Go! Prices Have Been Slashed

CASH or Checks ONLY.
No credit cards accepted!

Dillard Road Village Shopping Center (across from Dusty's)

Going Out of Business Sale!

LAST 3 Days
Designers Welcome
Many unique home decor items.
Thurs-Sat.
Feb. 14-16
noon to 5

Includes exclusive
18Karat Home Décor,
Vases, Baskets,
Fixtures, etc.

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

We will locate, excavate and pump it!



Mention this ad & SAVE \$25

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.
Based in Highlands • Call 526-8313 • Free Estimates

... **NORTHLAND** continued from page 9

enough to energize a small sector of his plant which enabled him to continue serving six customers and involved using 12-15 town of Highlands poles.

Sossomon also asked if since the termination of the franchise he had been granted a franchise to come back into town and Bond said yes.

The state recently took over the issuance of cable franchises from municipalities. However, cable companies are still subject to a municipality's pole attachment ordinance.

In his closing argument, McDevitt reminded the jury that liability on 74 drops and 418 poles had already been established by a previous court and Northland wanted compensation for the cost of repairing damage done.

He said HCG placed its cables in Northland's licensed space; that it moved the location of Northland's equipment; that it disconnected guy wires and used Northland's anchors; that it cut Northland's drop wire and then connected to its drop wires, tampered with Northland's underground distribution system and used its boxes on sides of houses – the mechanism that houses the lines that come into the houses.

Northland Regional Manager Bill Staley maintained that HCG's tampering with Northland's system which involves spacing intervals of 12-inches, 30-inches and 40-inches depending on the scenario, and other issues has created a potential hazard.

Attorney Sossomon said since Duke Power hasn't technically requested corrections on its poles, Northland's request for damages to fix the system is not necessary. He even suggested that complying with National Electrical Contractor Standards (NECS) isn't required by law and only the pole owner can demand a change.

Judge Winner said he believed adhering to NECS measurements were in most pole attachment agreements.

Sossomon also suggested the amount of \$474,976 was speculative because specific costs per repairs on 418 poles weren't submitted.

McDevitt said his firm decided early on to spare the jury and the court a 418 pole-by-pole damage description and repair scenario but has that information.

It took the jury a little over two hours to return with the verdict. It did award less than requested.

Sossomon said it's likely HCG will appeal the verdict. It has 30 days to file an appeal and 10 days to file a motion for a new trial which if granted would be heard by Judge Winner again. Sossomon said in any case, requesting a new trial will extend the time HCG has to file an appeal.

... **SCHOOL** continued from page 20

County Facilities Plan, contact the School Planning Section at (919) 807-3557, or see the website at <http://schoolclearinghouse.org>.

Brigman said in addition to meeting the state statute, the Macon County School System, in partnership with the Macon County Commission and Martin-McGill, Inc of Asheville, joined forces in 1998 to develop a School Capital Facilities Program for the School Planning Committee.

"This action occurred following the decision during the fall of 1997 by Macon County officials to engage in a long-range planning process to assess school system capital needs and to evaluate the financial requirement of supporting the renovations and new construction that the process would inevitably recommend," said Brigman.

A copy of this plan is available for public review in at the Macon County Board of Education Office of Superintendent.

Since the submission of the NC School Facility Needs Capacity Summary and Plan in 2006, the Board of Education and county commission have agreed to make all attempts to recognize the goals established in the 1998 long-range plan and to keep schools within the recommended populations to justify "small schools."

In North Carolina small schools are recommended to be between 300-500 students in the elementary grades and 400-600 in the middle grades.

"With our current plan, each of our elementary schools will be at or below the recommended student populations to justify a "small school," including our Macon Middle School which is also a high priority at this time," said Brigman.

"As Superintendent of the Macon County School System, I commend the citizens of Macon County as well as our county commissioners and the Board of Education, both past and present, for their ongoing commitment to long-range planning and their commitment to making our county a great place to live and work," he said.

"I look forward to the construction of our new schools and hope the community will continue to support efforts to provide students and teachers a competitive learning environment in every school.

Brigman also asked commissioners to finance a regulation-size soccer field at Highlands School estimated to cost \$268,500 and to fund a new metal roof and bathroom renovations there.

Commissioner Beale made a motion to fund the requests and for the county to reimburse itself with the first initial school improvement package next fiscal year. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGHLANDS POLICE, FIRE & MACON COUNTY SHERIFF REPORTS

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the weeks of Feb. 2-13. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Feb. 2

• A little after midnight, a suspicious vehicle was reported parked at the Citgo Station. The owner of the car was charging his cell phone in an exterior outlet.

Feb. 4

• At 2 p.m., a citizen reported checking her bank account at a local bank and found \$750 had been withdrawn without her knowledge.

Feb. 6

• At 7:25 p.m., a motorist at N. 4th and Foreman Road was cited for speeding 33 mph in a 25 zone.
• At 7:45 a.m., a motorist at U.S. 64 west was cited for speeding 50 mph in a 35 zone at N.C. 106 and Cobb Road.
• At 8:15 a.m. a resident of S. 5th Street reported a window valued at \$100 broken..

Feb. 7

• At 9:10 a.m., a motorist at N.C. 106 and Arnold Road was cited for speeding 50 mph in a 35 zone.
• At 9:10 a.m. a motorist on U.S. 64 west was cited for speeding

51 mph in a 35 zone.

Feb. 11

• At 4 p.m., a resident reported his granddaughter was missing and didn't get off the school bus. It was later discovered that she had gone to her boyfriend's house..
• At 7:35 p.m., a motorist at N. 4th and Chestnut streets was cited for speeding 43 mph in a 25 zone.
• During the week officers issued 1 warning ticket.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Feb. 6-13

Feb. 6

• The dept. responded to a vehicle accident on NC 28 South. There were no injuries.

Feb. 8

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

Feb. 9

• The dept. responded to a fire call concerning a brush fire on Arnold Road. It was quickly extinguished.
• The dept. provided mutual aid to the Scaly Mountain Fire Dept. to help with a structure fire on Cabbage Lane.

Feb. 10

• The dept. responded to a fire call concerning a brush fire on Morewood Drive. It was quickly extinguished.
• The dept. responded to an alarm activation at Old Edwards Inn. It was cancelled almost immediately.
• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Satulah Ridge Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

Feb. 11

• The dept. responded to a vehicle accident at Flat Mountain Road and U.S. 64 west. The victim was transported to the hospital.

The following is the Macon County Sheriff Dept. log entries for the Highlands Township for the week of Feb. 4-14.

Feb. 4

• Deputies responded to an alarm.

Feb. 5

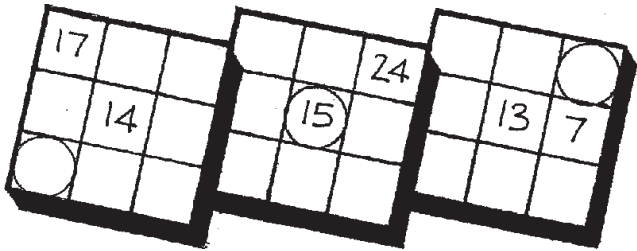
• Deputies responded to an alarm.

Feb. 7

• A resident on Wood Lily Way reported a 1-carat diamond and platinum ring valued at \$8,000 missing from a desk drawer in her home.

• FUN & GAMES •

PseudoCube®



AN3E – Level of Difficulty – Hard

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.

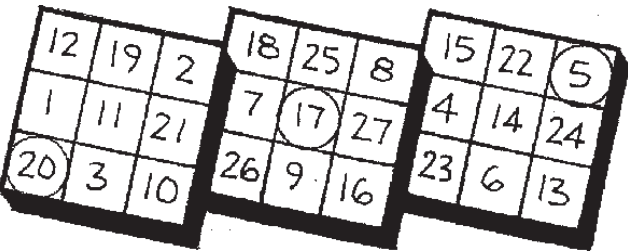
THE CHALLENGE:

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 #DZ1D in Feb. 7 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 "Special Choices"

Across

1. For shame (Old English) (3)
2. Club procedures (5)
3. Retired (abb.) (3)
4. In a direction (2)
5. Yes! (sp.) (3)

Down

6. Noxious rodent (3)
7. Melody (3)
8. Resort town in NM (4)
9. Hearing organ (3)
10. Intravenous (2)

	T			O		S	
S		I	E		R	A	T
	O			S			F
I		O	A		R		F
	A			R		E	
R			S		V	O	
	I			T		R	
T		F	R		E		O
	R			I		T	

Solution to Feb. 7 puzzle

U	T	E	N	S	D	X	I	M
I	N	M	X	U	E	S	D	T
X	D	S	M	T	I	N	E	U
E	U	N	T	X	S	I	M	D
M	I	X	E	D	N	U	T	S
T	S	D	I	M	U	E	X	N
D	M	U	S	E	X	T	N	I
S	X	I	D	N	T	M	U	E
N	E	T	U	I	M	D	S	X

HighlandsInfo.com

**The Most Used Internet Directory
For: Highlands Area News, Weather
Lodging, Dining, Realty & Events
Get Linked Today - 828-526-0782**

