

# Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 6, Number 2

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Thursday, Jan. 10, 2008

## On-going

• Cardio Dance Class. \$5 MWF at 8:30 AM @ the Rec Park (downstairs)  
Next week: Country Line dancing

• 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 hospital at the Jane Woodward room 201, 10 a.m. until noon.

## First Mondays

• Hospital Auxiliary meeting 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.

## Every Wednesday

• "The Bible Tells Me So" at 6:15 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church. The study will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:15.

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

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

## Every Thursday

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

## 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 – \$5 per student.

## Saturday, Jan. 12

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 10-mile strenuous hike, with several ups and downs, on the Georgia Bartram Trail, partly along the Chattooga River. Call leader Doug Deane, 864-718-9265.

## Tuesday, Jan. 15

• 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.

## Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
45-28°F	46-29°F	37-26°F

## RiverWalk and Town no longer at odds

The town's fight with RiverWalk is over.

Following a closed session at Wednesday night's Town Board meeting, the board voted to uphold the December ruling by Administrative Judge Gray and not pursue fining RiverWalk \$400,000 for sedimentation violations.

"We will not go any further with the suit," said Mayor Don Mullen. "We accept what the judge said."

Basically, Judge Gray said that the town didn't have adequate evidence at the Dec. 6 Town Board meeting to levy the \$400,000 fine. The town, as the respondent

in the case and also the judge, had the right to appeal Judge Gray's decision.

Prior to going into closed session to discuss the matter, RiverWalk attorney Billy Clarke objected to the closed session on the grounds that the Town Board was

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## OEI buys new helmets for fire dept.



Mario Gomes, CEO of the Old Edwards Hospitality Group, recently invited the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department to lunch at the Rib Shack. Much to his surprise, the department made him an honorary fire chief and gave him a helmet that was retired from service. OEI recently donated \$2,000 to the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. to purchase 10 new safety helmets. The dept. purchased another 20 so each of its 30 members has one. Pictured above from left is Gomes, John McCall with a firefighter helmet, James Ramey, Robbie Forrester, Chief James Manley and Lenny Metrick have officer helmets and Jimmy Tate with a rescue captain helmet.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

## Saturday school a possibility for Highlands

Franklin High School had its first Saturday school day Jan. 5 and depending on future inclement weather, Highlands could follow suit.

Highlands has more snow days built into its calendar than Franklin which will postpone school on Saturdays for Highlands School for a while, but as it now stands, due to the Thursday, Jan. 3 snow day, Highlands School will end on June 9 instead of June 6 as originally planned.

The next snow day will be made up June 10 and following

snow days will be made up on the Saturday immediately following the event.

Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter said one reason Franklin had a Saturday school day so soon is because its calendar is different from Highlands'.

"First of all, Highlands School isn't a polling place so that gives us an extra school day Franklin doesn't have," he said. "The second thing is due to the size of the school, Franklin administrators need two workdays following the end of a grading period whereas

Highlands only needs one, so Franklin doesn't have any extra days to play with."

The reason the Saturday snow day must immediately follow the event is because State law mandates that students can't go to school six days in a week.

Jetter said the crux of the problem – that of extending the school year and conducting school on Saturdays – is because of the overall school calendar that was changed to accommodate the tourist industry. School now can't

• See SATURDAY page 9

## ATMs, OEI parking, and pole violations subject of meeting

### ATM Kiosk

Banking ATM kiosks under 800 sq. ft. are now allowed as per the town's ordinance, but certain details must be ironed out.

At the Jan. 9 Town Board meeting, commissioners adopted the amendment to the town ordinance to waive the 800 sq. ft. requirement for banking ATMs on the grounds that the ATM is needed for county, school and town employees.

The ATM plan that instigated the ordinance change is set for Highlands Plaza but the ordinance waiving the sq. ft. requirement applies to ATM kiosks anywhere in town.

The ordinance reads: "Automatic Teller Machines, whether attached to building walls or free-standing, shall not be subject to the minimum of 800 square feet of floor space required by this section."

At Wednesday's meeting, Commissioner Buz Dotson, questioned if the amended ordinance would pave the way for various other kiosks in town.

"What if more than one ATM comes in? What about a Kodak photo kiosk or a real estate with rolling photos?"

The board said it only applied to banking ATMs.

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • LETTERS •

### There is nothing simple about philosophy

Dear Editor,

In a recent Letter to the Editor Mr. Waylon Chastain lists some objections he had with "The Game of God: Recovering Your True Identity." As co-author I would like to comment on these objections.

First of all no one knows the absolute truth (a state I believe to be synonymous with "God"). All we mortals can do is speculate about the absolute then see how well our theologies translate in reality. No one really knew what the surface of the Moon was like either — until we used our brains and got up there.

Mr. Chastain writes "As a Christian, the thought of God justifying himself to me makes me uncomfortable."

At no point do the authors suggest that God needed to justify "himself" (we would never say "himself" because we don't believe in sex-typing the indescribable). We do say that a great many thinking people understandably find repugnant the idea of a separate "God" lounging comfortably in heaven while his ant-like creations are busily putting one another in gas chambers and threatening to extinct themselves with hydrogen bombs. These are the people for whom The Game of God was written — it is they who need to find forgiveness in their hearts for God.

It is our conviction that if the entire universe is not an expression of God in amnesia, if God is somehow completely separate from "his" creation — a creation filled with loneliness, pain, ignorance, child pornographers, and serial killers — then God is indeed beyond forgiveness. If all-powerful God could have intervened and stopped Auschwitz but failed to do so then there is no argument that would lead any rational creature (one who wasn't terrified of winding up in the mythological fires of hell) to forgive such a deranged deity — much less love "Him."

Logically the only way God can be completely exonerated (no forgiveness necessary) is this: every expression of mortal agony is actually experienced by God disguised as us; Creator and Creation are ONE. According to our theology, God is brilliantly posing as each and every one of us — and every atom of the cosmos. God is here to experience that which even God cannot experience as God: limitation, struggle, conquest, effort, ignorance, childhood play, falling in and out of love, discovery, loss, death, hitting the jackpot, pain, cruelty and yes, the ultimate psychotic states of serial killing and death

camp commandant and suicide bomber and child molester.

We can "forgive" God only when we recognize that there is no "us" at all — there is only the infinite One expressing itself as us for the experience of limitation. The only "suffering inhabitants" of our universe-model is God — in a state of amnesia undergoing the supreme adventure called life. We leave it to our readers to determine whether our theory puts God in a more favorable light than the traditional Judeo-Christian model: a Supreme Being who resides in heaven and ceaselessly threatens His seriously flawed and death-stalked creations with eternal damnation if they fail to comply with His precise orders.

As to Mr. Chastain's excellent question of Origin, our theory that the universe is God in a self-induced state of amnesia has evolved in a very profound way since "The Game of God" was published fifteen years ago. We continue to see the universe as God in amnesia but we have eliminated the words "self-induced."

Albert Einstein once said, "What really interests me is whether God had any choice in the creation of the world."

Good point! If amnesia was intentionally "self-induced" we found ourselves unable to answer such questions as: Where would the incentive to induce am-

nesia come from? Surely infinite consciousness is "at rest" in its utter completeness — a state of divine inertia — so from whence would come the stimuli to change? Why would the infinite willfully choose to become finite? Why would the perfect light of absolute truth deliberately devolve into shadowy delusion? Why would a God of love intentionally choose to undergo suffering and evil? Answers like "boredom" or "God has a playful nature" (which we did use in "The Game of God") seemed at best anthropomorphic and at worst flippant.

For us the answer to these questions was that it is simply the nature of Grand Overall Design (G.O.D.) to be infinite and finite, unlimited and limited, conscious and unconscious, simultaneously and forever (G.O.D. gets to have it all!). There is no Grand Overall Designer because the universe was not "created." The universe is simply a particular level of experience enjoyed by the Grand Overall Design.

As to Mr. Chastain's objections on meaning, morality, and destiny:

Meaning: We hold that the state of absolute truth exists. Nothing outside the state of absolute truth exists in reality. The illusion of something exists (the universe) but that is all it is — an illusion (Maya). This illusion is a component of absolute

truth. To Be (absolute truth) or To Pretend Not To Be (illusion): that is all there is and all there will ever be. What alternatives remain? Heaven or hell? Many rational people find the idea of eternal life as themselves (a sort of never-ending celebration in the case of "heaven") to be the stuff of nightmares. Think about it.

Mr. Chastain: "...when it comes to the question of Destiny, we are told that their worldview doesn't offer any definitive answer."

On the contrary, we state emphatically that the destiny of every mote of creation is to ultimately return to home base; to awaken; the process of "recovering your true identity" (the subtitle of our book); to meld back into the infinite. That all amnesiac form will ultimately be reconciled with absolute truth seems a supremely splendid destiny. We unconditionally state that God does not remain lost in amnesia forever. Awakening is guaranteed.

On the subject of Morality Mr. Chastain states: "If there is no system of deterrence, such as retributive reincarnation or purgatory, why choose a life of self-sacrifice over a life of debauchery or hedonism? There can be no distinction between the philanderer and the philanthropist."

There's all the difference in the world. The life of the philanderer is deprived of love and everything it means to be a truly humane being. The philanderer is to going through life with the equivalent of blown tweeters — the delicate high-end of existence is simply missing. The rewards and punishments for our actions are delivered in the present and in real time. This is the law of cause and effect also known as karma. The mafia hit-man may sleep soundly every night and never suffer a moment's conscious remorse but he is insane nevertheless and his experience of life is completely truncated compared to the man with a compassionate heart. As for "ultimate judgment" there is, ultimately, only G.O.D. Judgment requires "other" and is therefore not applicable to the infinite One.

Good and evil are indeed equally valid — as undeniable components of what passes for "reality" in this universe. In fact they are inevitable expressions of the madness which ensues when an ape-like creature is encumbered with analytical thought. Mistakes will be made as the creature evolves or, to paraphrase Donald Rumsfeld, "Evolution is a messy busi-

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### LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands' Newspaper. Please email letters by Monday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

## Highlands' Newspaper

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## • OBITUARIES •

### Kimeran Armstrong

On Monday, December 24, 2007, Kimeran Armstrong, 37, departed this earth. Left to cherish her memories is her daughter, Ryan Ann from Cullowhee, N.C.; her mother Marilyn F. Rant of Highlands and Franklin, N.C.; her sister, Robin M. Armstrong of Highlands, N.C.; her father, W. Allen Still from Atlanta, GA; and two dogs, Idgie and Zoie. She also leaves behind two aunts, two uncles and four cousins.

Kimeran, who was both beautifully and painfully sensitive, lead a passionate life. Those who knew her well knew she always wore her heart on her sleeve. Kimeran had an uncanny understanding, empathy, and compassion toward other people. She also had a brilliant mind and with one look into her penetrating green eyes you knew she was wise beyond her years.

Since quite a young age, Kimeran has been an incredible poet, often portraying her vast range of emotions and love of those who were close to her through her poetry. Her poetry also details the extreme depth of feeling involving her lifelong struggle with manic depression. More recently, she was focusing her writing and research to compile a memoir conveying the trials and triumphs of this often misunderstood and debilitating disease.

Kimeran often spoke about being from the "blue planet" and we know in our hearts that she is on her way home. Her warrior spirit is now free and whole and at peace. As her daughter (who brought Kimeran the most joy in life) put it, she is where "the stars are dancing." There will not be an immediate funeral, but there will be a memorial service to honor Kimeran's life in several months. Kimeran's body has been donated to science, as per her request. The family requests no flowers. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to NARSAD, The World's Leading Charity Dedicated to Mental Health Research at 1-800-829-8289 or [www.narsad.org](http://www.narsad.org).

### Helen Ruth Henry

Helen Ruth Henry, 82, of Highlands, N.C. died Tuesday, January 1, 2008 at a Highlands-Cashiers Nursing Home. She was born in Rabun County, GA, the daughter of the late Jim and Ethel Wilburn Jenkins. She was married to Wally Henry who died January 8, 1998. She was a homemaker, a loving mother and grandmother. She was of the Baptist faith.

She is survived by her two daughters, Anna Lee Henry and husband, Johnny of Highlands, N.C. and Patsy McCall and husband, James Howard of Statesville, N.C.; four sisters, Effie Hunnicutt of Franklin, N.C., Mary Baty and Rita Baty of Highlands, N.C. and Phyllis Pierson of Walhalla, S.C.; five brothers, Rev. Junior Jenkins of Highlands, N.C., Lewis Jenkins of Walhalla, S.C., Billy Jenkins of Pickens, S.C., Donnie Jenkins of Florida and Tommy Jenkins. Thirteen grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren also survive. She was preceded in death by a son, Larry Webb and a sister, Louise Clark.

Funeral services were held Saturday, January 5, 2008 at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Bryant Funeral Home in Highlands with Rev. Gary McCoy officiating. Burial will be held at Wilson Cemetery. Billy Joe Henry, Terry Henry, Clifford McCall, Keith McCall, Robert Jenkins and Bobby Jenkins will serve as pallbearers.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### Elsa Emy Norris Dodd

Elsa Emy Norris Dodd, 83, of Highlands, N.C., died Wednesday, January 2, 2008 at her home. She was born in Charleston, S.C., the daughter of the late Dr. Jack C. Norris and Elsa Parsons Norris. She was an artist and was of the Episcopal faith.

She is survived by one sister, Karen Norris Sibley of Atlanta, GA; one brother, Jack Clayton Norris, Jr. of Savannah, GA, and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial services were held Sunday, January 6, at 2 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of The Incarnation in Highlands with Rev. Brian Sullivan officiating. A reception will followed the service at the Church.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

## Burning ban lifted...for good

After several weeks of rain and Tuesday's snow in the mountains, U. S. Forest Service officials have lifted the campfire ban in the National Forests in North Carolina.

"Although the burning ban is lifted, people still need to practice caution when building campfires in the national forests," said Diane Bolt, fire planner for the National Forests in North Carolina. Even with

December's heavy rainfall, the National Forests in North Carolina are still in drought conditions.

"We will continue to monitor weather conditions and may have to reinstate the national forest burning ban if this wet weather pattern ceases," said the fire planner.

## Main Street beautification continues



On Monday, Jan. 7, town crews began installing 11 benches along Main Street. The black, steel powder coated bench is four feet long. "This is a high quality product for streetscape use and is meant to match the trash cans," said Commissioner Hank Ross. Mountain Findings donated \$8,000 to the town which was used to purchase the benches.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

## Cooley is ready to get to work

Joe Cooley believes his three degrees – a Masters in city and regional planning, a bachelors degree in landscape architecture with a certificate in environmental studies and his juris doctorate in law – will serve him well as Highlands' new Zoning Administrator/Planning Director.

"It's a great combination – addressing the landscape and environment aspects with planning which is political and very process oriented," he said.

Not surprising, members of Highlands' various boards as well as citizens have paraded through his office over the last two weeks introducing themselves and their agendas.

Cooley says he knows a lot has been put on the back-burner waiting for his arrival but right now he's trying to get up to speed on the existing ordinance and the issues going on.

He's already recommended a land use map to accompany the land use plan which will help visualize long range plans. "It will be an opportunity to get a long range view and to see where the town wants to go and should go."

There's been talk of consolidating and closing up loopholes in the town's ordinance and Cooley thinks he can help with that.

"This is a common problem everywhere," he said. "But since I have been on the other side I know where to look and

know where the typical problems lie."

As a lawyer with the Smith, Gambrell & Russell Land Use Group in Atlanta, GA, he said he's worked on many cases involving ordinances.

"The key is to keep it clear and definite and to look at how the whole thing ties together, perhaps rewrite it in areas," he said. "I also have to learn the intent of the council and try to accomplish what it wants possibly by rewriting the ordinance to accommodate."

He said like Highlands, Georgia's Cobb County's stance on growth changed depending on the most recent election. "It's gone from pro-growth to no growth and back again," he said.

Cooley said there are environmental issues that will have to be addressed in

the future, like steep slope development and stormwater concerns, while also considering the projection of population growth 20 years from now.

"You have to make sure the codes and process is taking you where you want to go," he said. "Long range planning is necessary but you need to know where you want to go before you can get there."

If an ordinance rewrite is requested, he suggested farming the job out to a legal firm whose eye could spot potential pitfalls. "After we tell them what problems or issues we face, it might be good to have someone

•See COOLEY page 11



Joe Cooley





Adorable two bedroom, two and a half bath cottage conveniently located off of Hicks Road in Highlands. Huge covered porch, cathedral ceilings and a floor to ceiling stone fireplace in the great room. A wonderful sunroom with hot tub has been added off the master suite. A good value at only \$398,000.



At Highgate is this new home with all the bells and whistles. Vaulted great room with stone fireplace, upscale kitchen with wine bar and antique styled island. Travertine tile throughout all the baths, granite surfaces among the kitchen and baths, master on main & 2 upper level guest suites offer vaulted ceilings and private baths. 2 car carport. \$1,125,000



Newly remodeled 3 BR, 3 BA cottage. Open and airy home with newer Kitchen Aid kitchen with warming drawer, cook top, wall oven, skylight, light cabinets & solid countertops. Dining room with wet bar. Vaulted great room with mountains tyed fireplace, large deck, beamed ceilings in master suite, family room downstairs with private guest suite, bath and garage. \$695,000



A rare find on Big Bear Pen Mountain, one of the most desired addresses in Highlands. Tucked behind a large thicket of rhododendrons, this wonderful farm-styled home features a mountain view., hardwood floors & stone fireplace. The master is on the main floor and guests can have their own privacy with two gust bedrooms upstairs. Only \$775,000



Nearly new builder's own home with a large granite kitchen with eat-in area. Incredible pantry/mudroom/laundry space. Master on the main level with large bath finished in tumbled marble. 3 BR upstairs with private baths. A great front yard, large open deck and more. A wonderful home for large or small gatherings and is convenient to both Highlands and Cashiers. \$549,000



New Construction! This 3 BR, 3.5 BA home feels like mountain elegance. Sited perfectly on a lot with lush rhododendron and offers high end finished throughout. A superb granite kitchen with antique styled work island. Master suite and luxury bath. 2 guest suites with private baths upstairs. A full length covered deck with fireplace and an outstanding view of Shortoff Mountain. Includes car storage and furnishings are available. \$998,500

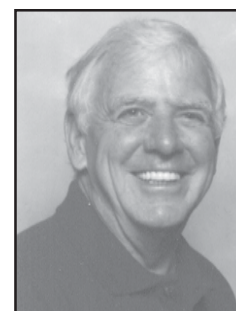


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## • LOOKING AT LIFE •

### War you say? What war?

I am not making this up. I was sitting by myself in a movie theatre when suddenly the house lights came on and the screen went blank. The manager walked on stage and said, "We are proud to announce we have Hershey bars on sale at the snack stand." Moments later, an ambulance took two injured children to the hospital, trampled in the stampede to buy Hershey's. I just sat in my seat because I had just spent my last nickel on popcorn. The year was 1945 and I was only 9-years-old. I will never forget that day.



**Fred Wooldridge**

•  
**Feedback  
is encouraged!  
email:**

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

World War II, something I only witnessed as a small child, had recently ended and things were beginning to return to normal. Bicycle tires would soon reappear at Sears and Roebuck and nightly air raid drills had ended. Boy, were they scary. Soon, gasoline rationing would end and dad would be able to drive again. Mom couldn't wait to buy her first pair of nylons and real butter would soon be back in the groceries. And then there was the cherished Hershey bar. I had not tasted one in a long time but would now have to wait until my next allowance. The end of a hard life for Americans was coming to an end.

Today, the liberal media hypes the war in Iraq as a great American tragedy. In reality, it is a ho-hum war and unless you have a relative or a good friend fighting in Iraq, probably not on your mind very much. For me, for something to be called "the war" there has to be sacrifices. If you could isolate yourself from the media, you wouldn't even know we were at war. Do you ever get the feeling we're being led around by our noses?

Last year, during the three weeks I spent in Dubai, there was no talk of the Iraq war; not in the media and not on the streets. It simply didn't exist, yet it was just up the road. The Arabs are too busy making money and they control their press.

During World War II, more American soldiers were killed in two days of fighting on the shores of Normandy, France, than have been killed in Iraq since this whole brouhaha started. Think about that. The total carnage from WWII was about 72 million people, 25 million of which were soldiers. Now that's news. Except for our brave troops who are being shot

at in Iraq, where is the sacrifice? There's no military draft, no food or gasoline rationing, no factories filled with hard working women building war machines. Instead, our stores are filled with everything we want or need and life is good. What war?

Politicians take liberties and threaten to cut off funding. There's no unity in this country. We used to say, "Loose lips sink ships" meaning you kept your trap shut about

anything concerning the war. Can you imagine that happening today?

Speaking ill of our troops was considered treason. No one spoke out against General Patton or General Eisenhower. Making fun of General Petraeus by nicknaming him General "betray-us" would have gotten you a first class butt whippin' by your neighbors and ex-friends. Printing companies would have never printed such shameful posters, regardless of political affiliations.

While there was much dissent about whether this country should get into a war, it ended with the attack on Pearl Harbor. Once Roosevelt made his infamous Pearl Harbor declaration of war speech on radio, this country was united against an enemy who wanted to destroy us. I recommend everyone go to <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/fdrpearlharbor.htm> and listen to the speech that will send chills up your spine. After that day, America was united. Men lied about their age and pushed in front of each other in line to join the military. Again, can you imagine that happening today?

More Americans died on 9/11 than at Pearl Harbor, but where is the outrage, the patriotism or unity? I saw a tiny bit of it right after the 9/11 attack, but when Americans were not asked to sacrifice, that soon faded. Our politicians went back to bickering and backbiting. They would rather dig up dirt on each other than look out for what is good for America.

Are these the seeds of a dying democracy and our eventual transition to fascism? Was Sinclair Lewis correct when he said fascism will come to us wrapped in a flag and carrying a cross? And how will fascism deal with the media? Not well, I'm afraid and they may be facilitating their own demise.



# • ANOTHER VIEW •

## Lessons from Iowa

Iowa is in the books. Here comes New Hampshire. Iowa voters have given victories and massive boosts to the campaigns of Barack Obama and Mike Huckabee.

There is a prevailing sense that there is something unfair about Iowa's influence on the presidential process, that Iowa, a mostly rural, mostly white, Midwestern state, is not representative of the country as a whole, and wields disproportionate influence.

Chris Dodd and Joe Biden fared poorly in Iowa and folded their tents. Neither had sniffed double-digit ratings throughout the campaign, and if Iowans killed their candidacies, it was more a case of euthanasia than cold-blooded murder.

It is true that Iowa has only 1% of the U.S. population and exerts influence far in excess of that percentage. I had assumed, along with nearly everyone else that this was a bad thing, that the fundamental notions of one man (person), one vote, and equal representation were being violated, or at least tarnished by Iowa's primacy in the electoral process.

Lizzie, Bull, and I were in the Turks and Caicos Islands last Thanksgiving. We found ourselves seated next to an Iowa couple at a seaside restaurant. They changed my mind about Iowa's role. Our conversation, over Red Stripes and conch fritters, turned to politics, presidential politics in particular. I was amazed with the knowledge of the candidates that those folks exhibited. I was impressed with the sense of responsibility that they felt that their state's unique position in the process thrust upon them. They told us that they were pretty representative of their friends, neighbors, family and co-workers. Each had attended several small meetings with various candidates, questioning and challenging them. They had studied the candidates, the issues, and the aspirant's positions on those issues. In the year leading up to the nation's first test, politics is at least a popular pastime, possibly a consuming passion. They want to get it right.

Mike Huckabee may not fare as well in more liberal, less religious states, but that is the decision of the electorate in those states. If voters choose to jump on the band wagon because of Huckabee's success in Iowa, the fault lies not with Iowa, but with voters in the primaries that follow. Iowa vets



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.  
email:

hsalzarulo@aol.com

our candidates. We should be grateful. We should follow its lead, emulate its dedication.

We have attempted to increase participation in the electoral process. We have forwarded the notion of instant registration and mail in ballots. The requirement for positive identification has been viewed as anti-democratic, a nefarious scheme to disenfranchise the poor, the illiterate, the elderly and

the ill. We are much more concerned with rights in this country than with responsibility, the right to vote trumps the responsibility to vote intelligently. The right to live freely is more fun than the responsibility to protect those rights. We leave that to the guys and gals over in Fayetteville, or Paris Island, or Fort Benning. We want easy credit, but we want to be protected from those who give it to us. We squander our planet's resources and trust that our children will develop technological solutions to clean up the stew we've left them in.

In Iowa, a state whose population is 94% white, Democratic voters turned out in record numbers, on a bitterly cold night, to vote for a black man to lead our country. In Iowa, voters ignored the millions of dollars that Mitt Romney had spent wooing their support, and voted instead for Mike Huckabee, a straight talking Baptist preacher whose unwavering message stood in stark contrast to Romney's inconsistent positions on matters close to the heart in the heart land.

I don't personally agree with much of what Huckabee believes, but I respect his willingness to tell me the truth. The people of Iowa resisted the manicured machines of Clinton and Romney, and voted instead for candidates whom they trusted to lead in a new direction. In doing so they threw the process up for grabs. They exposed the myth of Senator Clinton's invincibility. They resisted the easy message of the 60-second political TV ad and looked more deeply into the candidates. Young voters joined the process with a fervor not seen since the days of Gene McCarthy or John Kennedy.

I expect that Senator McCain will prevail in New Hampshire. Many disagree with his position on the war in Iraq, but few can dismiss his character. All respect a man who stands up for his

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## • SALONS & SPAS •

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In last week's Highlands' Newspaper there was a letter by Waylon Chastain in which he questioned some of the premises behind the "Oneness" philosophy I have been writing about in this column. Mr. Chastain took the trouble of reading *The Game of God*, the book my

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## • REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

### A tale of two deities - part 1

husband Arthur and I wrote and to which I have referred, and I appreciate the seriousness with which he took our ideas in his critique. I also appreciate the chance to further explore Oneness philosophy in this column.

Mr. Chastain used as a basis for his analysis the idea that "for any belief system to have validity, it must give coherent answers to four fundamental questions. These are questions of Origin, Meaning, Morality, and Destiny."

I completely agree that any philosophy or theology must be able to successfully and satisfactorily answer the toughest questions. That is why I bring up serial killers so often when I talk about Oneness philosophy: if a theology can't explain the most brutal of murders it's worthless.

So I am happy to play according to Mr. Chastain's rules. I will compare the theology of Oneness to that of mainstream Christianity on these four points.

First let me state what I mean by Oneness philosophy. Put most simply, there is nothing but God. That is why I call it Oneness: the world of spirit and the world of matter are of the same substance. This world of separate forms is an illusion; in fact there is only God pretending to be you and me and President Bush and your dog and my cat and the rocks and the streams and the planets and... Everything. Mind you, this is a "God-class" illusion and is thus completely convincing - I still look both ways before I cross the street!

This philosophy is not something Arthur and I dreamed up one day. This is what Aldous Huxley called the "perennial philosophy;" it is the essence of many spiritual traditions, including the Upanishads written almost 3,000 years ago. If you would like to read another version of it I suggest Ken Wilber, in particular *Up From Eden*. Mr. Wilber approaches this subject with science-like rigor. He describes, as we did in *The Game of God*, a process of involution and evolution. Involution means God forgets God's Identity and becomes almost completely unconscious in the world of form. Evolution is the slow reawakening of the amnesiacal God-Identity.

The main difference in my thinking now is that there was no "creation" event. The universe is not something God *does*, it is something God *is*. The world of limitation and form is part of who/what God is. I believe this is similar to process theol-

ogy. I once heard someone talking about this philosophy and he said that God encompasses the universe but is not identical with it; that is, God is the universe and more besides. In some mysterious way, the limited mortal universe is an aspect of the unlimited immortal God.

One of my favorite passages in the Bible describes the first time Moses meets God. Moses is concerned about what he should tell the Israelites if they ask him God's name. God tells him, "I AM That I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent you." Exodus 3:14

God is I AM. To me this means God is Being. God is the underlying ground of being of all that is. In *The Game of God*, we define "experience" as: being, free of a survival identity. In other words, pure being is pure experience. God is pure experience.

Now to the comparisons.

Origin. Both Christianity and Oneness agree that the source of all things is God, but to me a discussion of origin must also include the question "Why did God create the universe?" I have never quite understood what the Christian answer to that question is. We made a film once called "A Question of Meaning" and asked many people at a Billy Graham crusade and no one had any idea. I don't see any reason given in the first few chapters in Genesis. I did find this passage which implies that God created the universe so God would be appreciated for "His" glory: "Everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." Isaiah 43:7

Interestingly, the answer in *The Game of God* is similar. Once Arthur and I explained the theology behind our book to someone here in Highlands who had recently been out West for the first time and she answered, "Oh, I see. God created the universe so God could one day stand - disguised as me - and gaze at Itself - disguised as the Grand Canyon - with awe."

According to my current thinking, since there was no creation event then the question of origin is meaningless. If you asked a variation, "Why does the universe exist?" Oneness philosophy would answer, "Because God exists and God and the universe are One."

I will address the other three points in next week's column.

**All of Katie Brugger's columns are available on her website:**  
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## • HIS & HERS •

### A year of living with grit(s)

As hard as this may to believe, I managed to spend the first 55 years of my life – 21 of them below the Mason-Dixon Line – without ever eating grits. By the way, after spending 12 years in New York City, I think the Mason-Dixon Line should be replaced by the much more functional Schlepp-Mosey Line.

Do you live above the said line? You schlepp. Live below it? You mosey. After all, who remembers Mason and Dixon anyway?

But for those of you who want a short refresher course in history, here's what Wikipedia has to say about our old buddies, Mason and Dixon:

The **Mason-Dixon Line** (or "Mason and Dixon's Line") is a demarcation line between four U.S. states, forming part of the borders of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, and West Virginia (then part of Virginia). It was surveyed between 1763 and 1767 by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon in the resolution of a border dispute between British colonies in Colonial America. Popular speech, especially since the Missouri compromise of 1820 (apparently the first official usage of the term "Mason's and Dixon's Line"), uses the Mason-Dixon line symbolically as a cultural boundary between the Northern United States and the Southern United States (Dixie).

Which gets me back to grits, or rather, the sad lack of them in my life until two years ago. I had come down to spend Thanksgiving 2005 with John. It had snowed profusely. The house looked like that magical winter house in Doctor Zhivago (come on, ladies, you know the one. Omar Sharif and his wet eyes?) I borrowed an oversized bathrobe, and crept down the stairs. There was John, working his magic at the stove. "What are you making?" I asked. "Grits!" was the hearty reply. "Grits?" I said with a voice that held a barely repressed "ewwww" in it. Forgive me. I grew up in the apron strings of a Parisian mother whose reaction to grits was a raised eyebrow (just one), a wrinkled nose, and the expression "Quelle horreur!" This from a lady who eats snails.

Fortunately, the Snail Lady also taught me that when at other people's houses, you always take a taste of every dish, no matter how foreign or how foul. This has gotten me through some rough dinner parties, chomping my way



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

through undercooked chicken, and my own personal favorite, eating a dish in which the hostess had forgotten to include one of the main ingredients, the one that made it edible, obviously.

So, with the courage that drove pioneer women to pack their best china on their way to live in sod huts, I sat down to breakfast, lifted

my fork, and steeled myself to eat my first grits. Those of you with kids may recall that moment when you get your offspring to try a dish they claim to loathe, only to have them smile and ask for seconds. This was such a moment. I didn't just tolerate grits. I liked them. The next time I saw the Snail Lady, I told her so, too. "I had grits at John's house" I declared in a hearty voice. "Quelle horreur!" was her reply. She gave me that look that mothers reserve for children who confess to drug use, dating unsuitable men, and failing to make their beds in the morning. It was clear to her. Darling daughter had gone over to the Dark Side.

I was hurt. What was so bad about eating grits? After all, I'm a dedicated foodie. I watch the Food Channel. I read cookbooks in bed, what one of my Manhattan friends refers to as "food porn"). I've sat glued to the TV screen as Giada DeLaurentiis (she of the low necked t-shirts) regularly whipped up polenta. As far as I could see, grits were just polenta with attitude.

Growing up, I had heard rumors that you could eat grits two ways. One school of thought had them with sugar. The other served them with butter and salt. It sounded a bit like hot oatmeal, which my father liked, along with Cream of Wheat (which I misheard as Queen of Wheat, calling it that my entire childhood). Grits conjured up the image of people during The Depression – my father's finest hour – eating the inedible, "making do," bravely facing a world without iPods, paid overtime, and toilet paper in really nice pastel shades.

Shame on me. Little could I imagine the wonders of grits! Cheddar cheese grits. Shrimp and grits. Fried grits and ham. Baked grits. Now I'm starting to sound like the Bubba Gump shrimp guy "Forest Gump."

It isn't just me. My brother, Eric, spent several days in Highlands with his wife, Joyce, just after the Thanksgiving holidays. We went out to dinner several

• See HIS & HERS page 20

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# • HIGHLANDS SCHOOL BASKETBALL •

# • COACH'S CORNER •



Courtney Rogers had seven rebounds and the team had 22 block/tips and every players scored, but still lost to Rosman Friday night, 22-46. "We are continuing to play better and just need to work in finishing the games," said Coach Brett Lamb.. High scorer was Brie Schmitt with 7 points followed by Courtney Rogers with 5, Marlee McCall with 3, 2 each by Taylor Buras, Sarah Power and Kate Marie Parks. Bobby Jo Talley scored 1 point. The teams stats are 0-15 (0-1).

Brie Schmitt looks for a 3-pointer against Rosman Friday night.

Photos by Stephanie McCall

At Friday's home game the boys made a long-deserved win beating Rosman 60 to 53.

The majority of points were scored during the fourth quarter - 26. The first quarter netted 10 points, the second and third netted 12.

The high scorer was Jake Heffington with 22 points followed by Ezra Herz with 15 points. Next up was Michael Shearl with 11 points, Michael Baty with 6, and two each for Mickey Lica, Luke McClellan and Andrew Billingsley. Highlands' season Record: is 2 wins and 13 losses.

The JV Boys beat Rosman too, 56 to 52.

The next home game is Friday, Jan. 11 against Hiwassee. The girls play at 6:30 p.m. and the boys play at 8 against Hiwassee Dam.



Ezra Herz goes up for a shot at Friday's game against Rosman.

## 'Live, it's Sunday night football!'

This week I decided to let you, the (un)fortunate readers, in on my thoughts as I took in the North Carolina-Clemson contest live from Littlejohn Coliseum Sunday evening. Here is my running commentary, live from Sunday night.



Ryan Potts  
ryanpotts@hotmail.com

7:40 PM - I just finished watching Duke struggle at home vs. Cornell and therefore am mildly depressed at this point. Nothing says a successful season like a tough home game with an Ivy League team.

7:46 - Tim "Book Em" Brando with the play by play. The GGGGGGG-MAN is in the house on color commentary tonight — I love Mike Gminski.

7:51 - Clemson is hanging tough early, but I don't like the decision by Clemson coach Oliver Purnell of trying to full court press UNC. Ty Lawson is completely unpressable.

8:06 - Now Danny Green gets his second foul, but Clemson cannot capitalize from the free throw line, and that could be a precursor of things to come for the Tigers, who have been a notoriously bad free throw shooting team.

8:15 - After a good start for Clemson, they begin to struggle on offense and UNC takes a 6-point lead with under 8 minutes to play in the first half. UNC has put on a clinic on the break in the last couple of minutes.

Halftime - Clemson leads by 3 and has 11 offensive rebounds in the first half. Shockingly enough, Clemson has been able to run with the Heels in the first half, but it will be interesting to see if the pace of the game ultimately wears down the Tigers in the second half.

9:04 PM - Clemson has been playing extremely hard on the boards, and their physicality in the paint has been clearly bothering UNC in the early portion of the second half. However, Clemson has not been able to capitalize on their good play and push their lead past 4-6 points...that will come back to haunt them.

9:15 PM - We are at the under eight timeout and Clemson leads by only 3. This game is headed for a close ending, provided Clemson can keep hitting the offensive boards hard and making timely shots. Tyler Hansbrough is going to become a major factor as this game enters the last 5 minutes.

9:20 PM - Neither team can hit an outside shot right now, partly due to the frenetic pace of play and partly due to poor shot selection. We are getting closer to crunch time and shooting percentage is going to play a major factor down the stretch.

9:24 PM - Clemson misses the front end of a 1 and 1 followed by UNC getting Hansbrough to the line on the other end. Hansbrough makes one of two to cut the lead to 4.

9:26 PM - Ladies and Gentlemen, meet Demontez Stitt. I watched him personally torch us at McDowell last year for 30 pts while he was a senior at Butler-no question as to why he was the Player of the Year in North Carolina last year.

9:29 PM - Clemson continues to struggle from the free throw line as James Mays makes one of two. On the other end, UNC gains a point as Hansbrough hits two. If this game comes down to a contest from the charity stripe, UNC has a major advantage.

9:34 PM - Wayne Ellington has been a stone cold assassin tonight, trying to keep UNC in this game with another three to give him 29 points for the evening.

9:36 PM - Clemson misses another front end of a 1 and 1, Danny Green nails a three and UNC is only down one with 97 seconds to play. Clemson is very deflated right now.

9:39 PM - Hansbrough flops and draws a charge with 47 seconds to play - UNC will have a chance to take the lead.

9:43 PM - Ellington misses a three pointer and now Clemson will play for the win or OT with 13 seconds left to play. If I am Oliver Purnell I am going to Stitt right here with the hopes that Mays or Trevor Booker can get a putback.

9:45 PM - Clemson got exactly what they wanted, but Mays missed a point blank putback so we go to oooooovveerrrrtime.

9:53 PM - We've been back and forth in overtime thus far-Stitt has had two crucial turnovers for the Tigers and is looking like a freshman.

10:05 PM - After Stitt hits two huge FT's to put Clemson up one Ellington nails a three with 1 second left to give UNC what looks like an insurmountable lead. On the play beforehand Marcus Ginyard double dribbled and was not called-huge miss by the officiating crew.

10:07 PM - Clemson throws in away and UNC escapes with a huge road win to remain undefeated. Terrific effort by what looks like the top two teams in the ACC at this point.

That was a great game-both teams played hard and it simply came down to who had the ball last. At this point in the season, it looks like UNC and possibly Kansas will be the two favorites to win the National Championship.



## ... SATURDAY continued from page 1

start before Aug. 25 or end after June 10 which not only affects the administration's ability to make-up days but students must take fall semester exams when they return from Christmas break rather than prior to it as before.

Though many people grew up with that kind of school calendar, Jetter said school was different then. "Schools weren't ranked as they are now, nor were there as many benchmarks to hit," he said.

Superintendent Dan Brigman said since Highlands and Nantahala often miss more school due to inclement weather than schools in Franklin, he and the Board of Education allowed principal discretion on the first two snow days of the season but after that Saturday has to be the option for makeup days.

Brigman said school calendars are very complex and have a large number of state requirements that must be addressed. "Within the academic year, we must be in session for 180 total days and 1,000 instructional hours. In addition to the start and end dates, we are required to have a work-day immediately following each grading period." Staff in schools with block schedules typically need two days between semesters to complete grades from first semester and finalize course schedules for second semester.

About four years ago, school systems had 10 workdays built into the calendar which makeup days easy -- mostly at the beginning of the school year, Thanksgiving and Christmas break.

"However, since the school calendar legislation changed to extend summer

## ... RIVERWALK continued from page 1

reviewing a decision made by a lower court.

"I don't think it's appropriate and I don't think the attorney/client privilege stands. This is a public meeting and you are deciding the fate of RiverWalk."

After the board returned to open session and before the board's decision was heard, Clarke reiterated his points and said the town's goal had been accomplished.

"If your goal was to get RiverWalk's attention in December, you did. The project is now stable and in compliance and has been since the spring.

Prior to announcing the board's decision, Mayor Mullen spoke.

"Mr. Clarke and Mr. Chandler the town of Highlands had a disaster two years ago. The way the project was handled to begin with was very bad and all our notices of violations went unheard.

"The only way we could get action was by doing what we did -- fining you \$400,000. When we did that, then things began to happen.

"We were getting desperate and this had to happen to straighten out a situation that was very bad. I guarantee you, this will never happen again in this town," he said.

Commissioner Amy Patterson said the judge agreed that the developers of RiverWalk should have been fined but couldn't

break and boost tourism/economics, we are now limited to the number of work days to build into each calendar," said Brigman.

At December's Macon County Board of Education meeting, members voted unanimously to adopt the "Saturday School Day" policy immediately following a regular day missed during the remainder of the 2007-08 academic year. Saturday school will only be for about three hours 8-11:30 a.m. but will count as a full day.

"Districts can count the day as a full day if buses run," said Brigman. "The dismissal at 11:30 will allow adequate time to feed children and conduct some classes."

Brigman said students won't be granted an excused absence on those days except for religious reasons "But the principals have the authority to recognize excused or unexcused absences on this and other school days," said Brigman.

Jetter said for the rest of the semester he will try to utilize two-hour delays rather than to call a snow day. "In fact, I'm considering making it a three-hour delay to make it possible for more students to get to school," he said. He's also considering having the buses stop at a designated spot, where parents can drop off their children for boarding.

"It gets very icy at the curve at the recycling center on Buck Creek Road. I might have the bus park at Zachary Park and ask parents to try to get their children there," he said.

If bus routes are tweaked, a message will go out to all families on that route so there are no surprises.

— Kim Lewicki

hand down that ruling.

"I was at the Administrative Hearing and I heard Judge Gray say that the developers of RiverWalk were poor stewards of the land and should be fined. But he also said we didn't have adequate evidence at the Dec. 6 meeting to assign the fine. But we had to do something to get your attention. RiverWalk was not addressing the situation; things were not being done correctly.

"We accomplished our goal to get you to do it right but that doesn't absolve you for doing it incorrectly and we had to learn how to deal with situations like this," she said.

She said since none of the \$400,000 would come back to the town anyway, nor could any of it be used for remediation, fining RiverWalk wouldn't serve any purpose.

By state mandate, the fine would have gone to the Macon County School Board.

At the end of the meeting, representatives from RiverWalk asked if there was some way they could make monetary amends -- perhaps send the town some money to be used for another purpose.

But Town Attorney Bill Coward said if the town accepted money earmarked as the fine, the school board could sue the town, but said the town would discuss the offer.

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## FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

### Looking ahead



**Mayor Don Mullen**

**T**o close out the year the Town of Highlands was pleased to hear that the Appeals Court ruled in our favor in the ETJ suit. The courts have confirmed what the Town of Highlands has claimed all along, that our appointments of people representing the ETJ areas to the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of the Town of Highlands was done properly and according to accepted procedure. The court has heard the appeal of the ETJ suit by Allan Bryson and the county and ruled in our favor. We hope this closes the door on a contentious discussion with the Macon County board on the method of these appointments and leads to better relations with that board.

I have requested to be on the agenda of the next Macon County Board of Commissioners meeting Jan. 14 so we can discuss the recreation money which has thus far not been sent to us by the county as promised. The agreement this year with them was the same as last year and yet we have thus far not received the \$500,000.

My other request of the county board is that Town Board meet with them jointly at least twice a year on a scheduled basis so we can discuss mutual programs and progress. Without direct contact with them, too many misunderstandings are creeping up. There is nothing our board would like more than a good relationship with our county counterparts. Men of good will can truly solve many problems when working together in a non-confrontational way. That is what we want. I have made out a schedule of at least two Town Commissioners to go to the county board meeting each month to be available for dialogue or presentations if they are on the agenda. It is imperative that communication in an official way be kept open between the county and the town.

As we look forward into 2008 there are a number of things, in addition to good county relationships, which I would like to see us accomplish. A primary concern of mine is the unpaved

• See MULLEN page 22



# • CONSERVATIVE POV •

## And they're off!

I've got some good news, and I've got some bad news.

The good news first. As you doubtless have heard, Ms. Clinton got whipped in Iowa. The bad news is that he who administered the whipping was Barak Hussein Obama. The who cares news is that Edwards got beat almost as badly as the Hilldabeast. Without putting too much weight on the political activists in Iowa, let's see what we can learn from the results.

We have heard for months that Hillary had the money, the organization, the political muscle to run over any opposition. Edwards has practically lived in Iowa for several years and was very well organized. Both had messages, more or less; Hillary stressed universal health care, Edwards thought his economic fairness theme would resonate. Obviously, neither gained enough traction to sufficiently sway the caucus goers.

The scary part is that, if Obama had a meaningful message, it didn't find its way out of Iowa. Looking back at the Real Clear Politics' charts of polling results, we see that Clinton had a several point lead over Obama until Oprah's road tour with him at which time the gap started to close. Her star-power seemed to rub off on him and his rock-star status started to pull him closer to Hillary. She, meanwhile, made herself more and more visible to Iowans and evidently they didn't like what they saw.

While Hillary's staff tried to downplay the meaning of her third place finish, conservative pundits claim she suffered a potentially killer blow. Her results may not put her under but she didn't do herself any good. One thing is certain, the air of her invincibility is history. On the other hand, is Obama's shallow, warm-and-fuzzy, "I care about you" non-message going to sell as well outside of Iowa? I don't think so.

On the Republican side, an equally late surge by Mike Huckabee put Mitt Romney in a bad place, at least for now. There is no question that Huckabee's Christian principals stimulated like-thinking caucus participants to turn out in Iowa. On one hand, this is not going to be repeated in many other states, principally New Hampshire. On the other, the fact that Christians had such a dramatic effect in highly visible Iowa should give others an incentive to participate in their state's electoral process.

Did Romney's attack ads prove his undoing? It is said that Iowans don't



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

appreciate such negative goings on while, generally speaking, it works. Is he just a little slick for Iowa's rural folk? Or did Huckabee simply connect with the caucus-goers? One myth that was dispelled is that overwhelming financial resources don't always overwhelm the opposition. It is estimated that Romney outspent the Iowa winner by 20-1.

So, what's the deal with the also-rans? Thompson tied with McCain a distant third after finally spending some time campaigning, although not very effectively.

While Thompson is considered the closest thing to a true conservative on the Republican side, his lackluster attitude seems to turn voters off. McCain, on the other hand, campaigned marginally in Iowa and was probably satisfied with his showing.

Ron Paul, the hero of the mavericks and the outspoken critic of the ongoing effort in Iraq did OK, getting three times as many votes as did Rudy Giuliani who ignored Iowa entirely. Frankly, I'm somewhat surprised that Rudy, even with his absence in Iowa, didn't draw more support than he did. After all, he was still leading the national polls going into Iowa. Poor Duncan Hunter struck out even though I think he was the right man. I hope he's considered for veep.

What can we learn from the results in Iowa? One thing seems obvious. The Democrats are far more excited about their candidates than were the Republicans.

Frankly, I don't understand what they're excited about. I can't imagine three less qualified candidates. When Obama, an empty suit if there ever was one, turns on the crowd, it's scary. What has he ever done but talk? I guess he does it well.

Bill Richardson was far and away their most qualified candidate and it got him nowhere.

Another thing is what appears to be a rejection of more of the same. I must have heard "I'm for change" a thousand times leading up to the caucuses. It's a change to what that bothers me. Both Huckabee and Obama had populist messages, knocking Washington and their parties.

By the time you read this, New Hampshire will have spoken. Romney and Hillary need wins badly. McCain does well there. Thompson needs to or he's cooked.

Should be fun.

## ... COOLEY continued from page 3

with alternate approaches and who can see the flags to work on it."

He said oftentimes the legal aspect of the ordinance brings a "reality check" to the issues.

Cooley is living alone in Highlands for now. His wife Cindy is an environmental engineer with Georgia Pacific and their two children, Chris, 17, a senior and Mary Elizabeth, 15, soon to be a junior, attend Walton High School in Marietta. Cindy will stay in Marietta until the children graduate high school and then will move permanently to Highlands.

For now Cooley is trying to understand the current issues and to help out the best

he can.

"We have to try to live within the ordinances while making recommendations and suggestions. We do have to live by the rules, but we have to take into consideration the people."

Though he made this career and life change earlier than he and his wife planned, he's thrilled to be in Highlands and living in a town where he can walk to everything.

Town Administrator Richard Betz is glad to relinquish two of the hats he's been wearing for almost a year. "I think Joe will be good for Highlands," he said.

— Kim Lewicki

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John E. Bauknight, John W. Cleaveland, Earle Mauldin III, and John R. Shiffli, Sr.

## Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation names new board members

The Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation recently elected six new members to its board of directors.

Two of those appointed are new faces to the foundation board: former Highlands Mayor John W. Cleaveland, and retired BellSouth executive Earle Mauldin, who chairs the annual Bob Jones Golf Tournament held at Highlands Country Club to benefit Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

The four others named last month have previously served on the Foundation board, although in some cases not for several years. Atlanta financial consultant D. Jack Sawyer, Jr., former executive J. David Higgins, Jr., retired Highlands businessman John E. Bauknight III, and Highlands real estate broker John R. Shiffli, Sr., are all returning to the Foundation board.

The new members took office at the December meeting.

Highlands native John Cleaveland, is a retired restaurant owner (The Highlander Restaurant) and real estate broker (John Cleaveland Real Estate), though he continues to be semi-active in the latter. He served as mayor of Highlands for 14 years (until 1996) and prior to that, served as a member of the Highlands Town Board of Commissioners, and prior to that as a member of the town's Zoning Board of Adjustment. Most recently, he served as chairman of the town's Planning Board. In addition to his service to the town, he has been active in the Macon County Taxpayers Association, of which he is still president. He has also served on the board of the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, and was a founding member of Community Bible Church, where he continues to serve on the session.

He attended Clemson University and is a past recipient of the Robert B. DuPree award for outstanding community service to Highlands.

Also new to the Foundation board, Earle Mauldin is a former president and

CEO of BellSouth Enterprises and vice chairman of BellSouth. Mauldin divides his time between his home at Highlands Country Club and Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. In addition to chairing the Bob Jones Tournament Committee, he is also a member of the hospital board's Finance Committee, and a member of the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Board of Directors. He is a former chairman of the board of trustees of the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and former member of the board of the Atlanta Community Foundation..

A graduate of the Citadel in Charleston, SC, he holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, and a masters of Business Administration degree from the Emory Business School. He spent 36 years with BellSouth companies.

Returning to the board after a short absence, Jack Sawyer is regional president of BNY Mellon Wealth Management in Atlanta and previously was a founding principal of The Arden Group. He specializes in the administration of trusts, estates and private foundations. In Atlanta, he currently serves on a number the boards of civic and charitable organizations, including the Center for Disease Control Foundation National Advocacy Council, the Estate Planning Advisory Board for the Atlanta Community Foundation, Open Hand, the High Museum, Zoo Atlanta, the Atlanta Opera, the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Foundation, and the Georgia Museum of Art. He also serves on the boards of several private foundations.

He is a graduate of the University of Georgia, where he earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

A resident of Birmingham, AL, and Cashiers, David Higgins also returns to the Foundation Board, having rotated off the board in 2004. The former CEO of Boxall, Inc., a manufacturer of printed packaging materials. Higgins was also vice president

• See HOSPITAL page 13



## Emergency agencies stay prepared



Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, along with members of various local and county law enforcement and emergency agencies, conducted a disaster drill Friday, Dec. 26. Despite the inclement weather, hospital staff and emergency workers coped with a series of mock disasters that took place at both the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center, and out in the community. The scenarios included a "pretend" fire in the ceiling at the Living Center at the same time there was a water outage, the staged abduction of a resident by an estranged family member during the fire, and a vehicle accident involving an EMS unit on its way to the other emergencies. The hospital's emergency room was deluged with a number of "victims" as a result. The hospital is required to hold at least two such drills a year to practice its response to possible emergencies, either on campus or off. In addition to the hospital, other agencies or groups participating in all or some of the various scenarios were the Macon County EMS, Highlands Fire and Rescue, the Town of Highlands Water Department, Highlands First Responders, the Macon County Sheriff's Department, the Highlands Police Department, and the Macon County Emergency Management Department.

## ... HOSPITAL continued from page 12

of Flexographic Technical Associates during his career. He has served on the Birmingham board of Regions Bank, and the board of the Small Business Council of America. He has been a member of Kiwanis for 33 years. In addition to serving as a member of the board of Boy Scouts of America, and as a deacon and elder of the Independent Presbyterian Church, he has also chaired or served on various committees of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.

A graduate of Cornell University in mechanical engineering, he also holds a masters degree in that field.

By virtue of having been past chairmen of the hospital board, both John Bauknight and John Schiffli, Sr., have also previously served on the Foundation Board.

Now retired, Bauknight was the owner and president of Highlands Hardware and Builders Supply in Highlands for many years. Prior to that he was personnel manager for Cashiers Plastic in Cashiers. He has been active in many civic organizations, serving in the past as president of the Highlands Rotary Club, and coordinating the club's efforts with Special Olympics in Macon County. He is the current president of the Evergreen Foundation, which benefits Smoky Mountain Mental Health, and is

vice president of the Highlands Community Child Development Center. He served on the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Board of Trustees for eight years, including three years as chairman.

A graduate of Georgia Tech, he is an industrial engineer by training.

A fellow graduate of Georgia Tech, Schiffli is a semi-retired real estate broker in Highlands and owner of John Schiffli Real Estate on Main Street, who has several generations of family members in the area. Prior to entering real estate, he owned the Galax Theater in Highlands and was a country club manager.

He has been active in many area organizations, including the cub scouts, boy scouts, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund, the Highlands Historical Society, and the Macon County Taxpayers Association. He has served 16 years on the board of the hospital, including three times as chairman, the last term ending in 1999. He was instrumental in efforts to build the new hospital in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

He graduated from Georgia Tech in 1960 with a bachelor's degree in Industrial Management.

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## • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

### Sin and its power



**Rev. Sam Forrester**  
Whiteside Presbyterian Church

**W**hen the Bible speaks about sin, it does so with clear language. With words that are hard and uncompromising it says, "He that sins is the servant of sin" (John 8:34).

Sin is a real danger to men. It is not something we can flirt with. To go out and stand near to sin, thinking you can be close and not get drawn in is a fatal error. The Black Widow spider is called the widow because she eats her mate. When the male comes to fertilize the female, he must enter her web on one strand only. If he gets off on any other cord he is eaten. When he has completed his work of fertilization he leaves hurriedly and most make the mistake of using the wrong strand and are caught and eaten. Sin is like the Black Widow to men, she looks exciting and pleasing to be with, but when the fun is over and men want to leave, she seizes them and destroys them. When we sin, we are not the ones in control, able to leave whenever we want. When we sin, we are under the power of sin, caught in its web.

You have all felt the shock of realizing you have just sinned. You ask yourself, if you could have really done this wicked thing. You feel as though you have been caught in giant jaws and made to do that which you really didn't want to do. Yet, in honesty you must admit that you wanted to do it. It was you doing the act under the power of sin.

Yes, this is a terrible truth, that the one caught in the web of sin is the servant of sin.

We all cry out with Paul, "Who will deliver me from the body of this death" (Romans 7:24). Each one of us is plagued with the power of sin in us. As long as we are members of this earthly human race we shall feel the power of sin.

However, my dear friends, there is hope. Yes, hope, for the power of sin is not greater than the One sent by God to conquer sin and death. Our cry goes up with Paul, "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 7:25).

Sin is a dangerous web that can bind the strongest of men, making them into slaves of their own lust, greed and selfishness. But there is One that Scripture clearly teaches us is greater than sin. He is the only begotten Son of the Father in heaven. The One that has come down to set us free from sin and death. "If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36).

## • PLACES OF WORSHIP •

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Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965  
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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

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Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770

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Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

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(Highlands Community Center on. U.S. 64 next to the ballfield in Highlands)

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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  
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### THURSDAYS: 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study

### 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)

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Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

Small groups available throughout the week.

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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.

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Rev. Mark Kayser, Interim Pastor  
Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175  
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Mondays: 8 a.m. - Men's Bible Discussion & Breakfast  
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. - Seekers  
Choir - 7

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## Free Dental Clinic offers hope



*Dental Assistant Robby Cahill (right) who retired from the Marine Corps and then as executive director of a school for disadvantaged adults, works with Dr. Joe Hilton, one of the retired dentists at the Clinic who volunteers part time. Observing is Melodie Hall, another Dental Assistant at the clinic. Cahill and his wife Jeannie now live in Cashiers. Cahill is busy training as a dental assistant and volunteers at the Free Dental Clinic in Cashiers. It's on the second floor of the Laurel Terrace office building, just east of the Crossroads. The clinic offers 24 hours a week in dental services. Anyone interested in volunteering or making an appointment can call Clinic Executive Director, Ms. Karen Minton at 743- 3393.*

## Scholarships offer college-bound students a financial boost

## WNC Public High School Seniors Must Act Quickly to Meet Jan. 15 Deadline

It is scholarship season for college-bound Western North Carolina high school students, and those interested in applying for scholarships through The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina should act quickly as deadlines are fast approaching.

The Foundation administers more than 30 scholarship programs, ranging from one-time \$500 awards to renewable scholarships worth up to \$28,000 over four years. In 2006-2007, the Foundation awarded more than \$500,000 in college scholarships to students across the 18-county mountain region.

Those wishing to apply for any of the scholarship programs must contact their school's guidance office and ask for a copy of the Common Scholarship Application. Students must complete and return materials to their guidance counselors by the scholarship's deadline. Most deadlines are Jan. 15.

While many scholarships are open to

students from the whole region, others are specific to students from certain counties. Scholarship recipients are selected on criteria that vary by program, but generally include financial need, academic achievement, community service, extracurricular activities and work experience.

For more details on the Foundation's scholarship opportunities, public high school seniors are urged to visit [www.cfwnc.org](http://www.cfwnc.org).

Since 1978, Western North Carolinians have relied on The Community Foundation to help them turn their charitable passions into meaningful and effective philanthropy. In partnership with Foundation donors, CFWNC has awarded more than \$90 million in scholarships and charitable grants to nonprofit organizations and public institutions across the 18-county mountain region and beyond. For more information, visit [www.cfwnc.org](http://www.cfwnc.org) or call (828) 254-4960.



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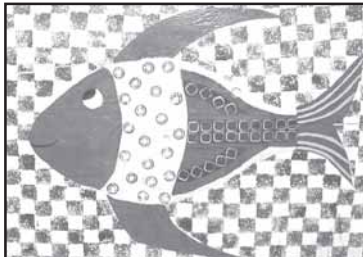
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**THE LITERACY COUNCIL OF HIGHLANDS** is seeking an Assistant Director to help with all Council activities including program direction, office management and grant writing. Applicant must have both written and oral Spanish knowledge and be available Monday-Thursday from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. Please call Breta at 526-9938, ext 240, for more information. Job begins in January.

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

**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 Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

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

**RN'S AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER.** Full, Part-time and PRN positions available for 12 hour day and night shifts. Excellent wage scale, with shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a

week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

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

### WORK WANTED

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

**LOOKING FOR A HOUSEKEEPER?** Call: Manuela at 526-9586 (Highlands) Raquel Dugan at 524-4052 (Franklin) also, Experienced Truck Driver Seeks Full Time Employment: Please call 828-524-4052, or call the International Friendship Center to see how we can help! 828-526-9938 x 290.

### FOR RENT

**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 fireplace, 3 decks, canoe, furnished. Available Nov-May. \$1500 a month plus utilities. Call 770-435-0678.

**COTTAGE FOR RENT** - 1BR, 1BA in town @ Chestnut Cottages. Private, screen porch, Heat/AC, FP, extra sleeping loft, furnished or unfurnished. 6 month lease - \$800. monthly plus utilities. Call 526-1684.

### VACATION RENTAL

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

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

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

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

### REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

**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](mailto:gonzobean@aol.com). 3/6/08

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

**MOUNT VERON, SOUTH GEORGIA** -- 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](http://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](http://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 logging road as your driveway. \$62,500 Call 526-9021 or 787-2307.

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

**WELCOME HOME TO MOUNTAIN GROVE & FRANKLIN, NC** - Unprecedented opportunity to own 100 acres in picturesque and historic Mountain Grove, (1A5) Macon County, NC! Combine the pleasures and opportunities of a secluded high mountain valley (elevations from 3100 to 3400 feet) with unusually easy to access land. Live on your own farm with 30 acres of pastures, two barns, a remodeled main house, and a new log cabin for guests. Streams, creeks and hiking trails throughout. Perfect for a family and equestrian retreat. Tremendous investment/development potential! All within 20 minutes (via a soon to be paved State Road) of the historic downtowns of Sylva and Franklin. Nothing like it in the whole region! Contact Tim Ryan at (828) 349-4465 or [ryan@sanctuarync.com](mailto:ryan@sanctuarync.com) for more information or visit our website at [www.sanctuarync.com/farm\\_for\\_sale6.htm](http://www.sanctuarync.com/farm_for_sale6.htm)

**FREE '07 HUMMER 3 WITH PURCHASE OF THIS NEWLY REMODELED HOME** - 4 BEDROOM, 2.5 BATH HOME WITH BEAUTIFUL LONG RANGE VIEWS, 2 LIVINGROOMS, RECREATION ROOM, GRANITE KITCHEN, FIREPLACE, GREAT INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY, CAN BECOME A DUPLEX! \$369,000. CALL 305 458-0033

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

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

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

**COACH CLUB HIGHLANDS NC** - Chestnut Street. Gated Motor Coach resort lot in town Very nice 200 sq. ft. Lindal Cedar Coach House.

Fully Landscaped with Extensive patio area. Outdoor kitchen, gas fire pit, overlooking 85 ft of stream Rare find. 828-787-1014 or 352-258-4187

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**IN TOWN** - 3/2.5 log home. The cottages llakeside at Harris Lake. Less than 2 years old. \$319,000. Call Ty at 828-577-9261.

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

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



# • CLASSIFIEDS •

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

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

## ITEMS FOR SALE

**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.

**BUCK WOOD STOVE WITH BLOWER**, pad, screen fireplace surround and insulated chimney. Can be used free standing or as fireplace insert. \$250. 526-3647.

**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** – Ford Expedition on factory rims. Complete set of 4 only \$500. Size 17 x 75 J. Call Wolfgang at 526-8396.

**SOFA AND CHAIR SET.** Neutral color. Excellent condition. \$300. Could be a great Christmas gift. Call 526-9107.

**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.

**GENERATOR**, portable Briggs & Stratton 10,000 Watt 18 HP 8 Gal Fuel Tank 3 years old. never used. New \$2,199. Now. \$1,000. Call 828-526-4784 or 404-255-4894.

**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

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

**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

**LARGE BIRDCAGE** – 2 1/2 feet high by 1 foot 3 inches wide by 1 foot 2 inches deep. With feeders. \$25. Call 526-9245.

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

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

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

**REDUCED! MAHOUGHANY CHINA CLOSET.** 6-ft plus, mirror back, 4 glass shelves. \$125. Must see. Call 787-2307.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**2001 CHEVY 3500 EXTENDED CAB & CHASSIS.** 4x4, 6 speed, low miles. \$16,000 828-526-2874.

**MITSUBISHI 2006 RAIDER PICK-UP TRUCK** – 4WD, Tool Box, 10,500 miles. \$18,000. Call 526-0539.

**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

**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 specialize in tree removal, trimming, Lot/View clearing, under brushing and stump grinding. Quality work and Fully insured. For Free Estimate call 524-1309 or 421-2905.

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

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

**J&J LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICES** – complete lawn and landscaping service, spring 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.

**UNIQUE BUSINESS FOR SALE** in Highlands. Established Market. Call 828-200-0061.

## WANTED

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

## LOST

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

## PUPPIES FOR SALE

**BOXER/BULLDOG/SHEPHERD PUPPIES:** 2 male puppies for sale. One of a kind dog that can box, fight bulls, and guard your house! Mother is CKC boxer/bulldog and father is German Shepherd. \$200. each. Call 526-2465 after 5 p.m.

Wintertime Blues?  
Eat More Ice Cream!



Buy one Get One Free  
Any Ice Cream  
(Equal or Lesser Value)

**Hours:**  
Mon. – Sat.:  
11 a.m. until 5 p.m.  
Closed Sundays

Chocolates • Fudge • Ice Cream •  
Gifts • Nationwide Shipping  
370 Main Street • 828-526-3788



## • UPCOMING EVENTS •

### On-going

- Cardio Dance Class. \$5 MWF at 8:30 AM @ the Rec Park (downstairs) Next week: Country Line dancing.

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

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

- NA open meeting every Saturday at 7:30 p.m. of the ACC Satellite Group at the Graves Community Church, 242 Hwy 107 N. in Cashiers. Call 888-764-0365 or go to the website: [www.ncmana.org](http://www.ncmana.org).

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

- 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 Auxilliary of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Auxilliary 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.

## Ruby Cinemas

Hwy. 441, Franklin • 524-2076

**Jan. 11-17**

**THE BUCKET LIST rated PG-13**

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

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

Mon - Thurs: (4:10), 7

**P.S. I LOVE YOU rated PG-13**

Fri: (4:20), 7:10, 9:20

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

Mon - Thurs: (4:20), 7:10

**NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS rated PG**

Fri: (4:30), 7:20, 9:30

Sat & Sun: (2:20), (4:30), 7:20, 9:30

Mon - Thurs: (4:30), 7:20

**I AM LEGEND rated PG-13**

Fri: 7:15, 9:15

Sat & Sun: 7:15, 9:15

Mon - Thurs: 7:15

**THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP rated PG**

Fri: (4:15)

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

Mon - Thurs: (4:15)

## Improv returns weekends at ITC starting Feb. 1



**ITC LIVE! troupe. Standing, Becky Schilling, Jillian Burfete, Madeleine Davis, Seated, Bonnie Earman, Scott R. Paxton, Danny Osbourne, Kaley McCormack.**

**Whisperings have been heard all over Highlands, in the post office, grocery stores, shops, restaurants, street corners, and at parties. Gleefully the rumors are true. 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!, opening Friday, February 1st 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.**

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

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

### Every Wednesday

- "The Bible Tells Me So" at 6:15 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church. The study will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:15.

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

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

### Every Third Wednesday

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

### Every Thursday

- 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, Jan. 10

- Bingo at the Highlands Community Center next to the ballpark. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Super Fives - full card bingo - five down, five across in 55 number calls or less. Pays \$500.

### Saturday, Jan. 12

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 10-mile strenuous hike, with several ups and downs, on the Georgia Bartram Trail, partly along the Chattooga River. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 8 a.m. Drive 30 miles round trip with car shuttle. If coming from Franklin, call leader for alternate meeting place. Bring water, a lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people. Call leader Doug Deane, 864-718-9265, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

- Friends of the Jackson County Main Library will hold their semi-annual membership meeting on at Ryan's Steakhouse in Sylva. Friends members are asked to gather at 11:30 a.m. for lunch followed by an informative session about past and future Friends activities. One of the highlight topics will be the latest information about the New Jackson Coun-

ty Library. Friends members are encouraged to bring friends, family and neighbors to find out more about this dedicated group of volunteers.

### Monday, Jan. 14

- Macon County Commission meeting at 6 p.m. in the board room at the courthouse in Franklin.

### Tuesday, Jan. 15

- 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 ([cphi2@verizon.net](mailto:cphi2@verizon.net)) 526-4038. "Atheism and Evidence" by Fish, New York Times, June 17, 2007. To be circulated by email. Coordinator: Don McCormick.

### Thursday, Jan. 17

- Half-Price Sale at Jackson County Main Library, 536 West Main Street, Sylva from 4-8 p.m. for "Friends of the Jackson County Main Library." Sale includes books, records, videos, DVDs, CDs and miscellaneous items.

### Friday, Jan. 18

- Half-Price Sale at Jackson County Main Library, 536 West Main Street, Sylva from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sale includes books, records, videos, DVDs, CDs and miscellaneous items.

### Saturday, Jan. 19



## • UPCOMING EVENTS •

• Half-Price Sale at Jackson County Main Library, 536 West Main Street, Sylva from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sale includes books, records, videos, DVDs, CDs and miscellaneous items.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6-mile hike with one short steep climb from Warwoman Dell to the Pinnacle, passing two waterfalls en route. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 9:30 a.m. or at Warwoman Dell parking lot at 10 a.m. Drive 50 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome but no pets please

### Sunday, Jan. 20

• Hymn-Sing at the First Presbyterian Church at 4 p.m. Choose from hymns in the 1938 Cokesbury Hymnal. Song leader Stell Huie with Angie Jenkins on the piano.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 3-mile hike on the Bartram Trail from Wallace Branch, including a couple of side trails, with a elevation change of 300 feet. Drive 6 miles round trip. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 p.m. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. 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, Jan. 22

• 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 (cphi2@verizon.net) 526-4038. "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 - "Your blood work - What do you need to know?" 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.

### Saturday, Jan. 26

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 4.6 mile moderate hike on the Appalachian Trail in the Standing Indian area from Long Branch to Glassmine Gap, with an elevation change of 1000 feet. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 10 a.m. Drive 25 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Bill Van Horn, 369-1983, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

### Tuesday, Jan. 29

• 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. For more information, please contact Creighton Peden (cphi2@verizon.net) 526-4038. Coordinator: Martha Porter. "My plan is to give some sort of summary or overview of the talks by Barbara Brown Taylor and Water Brueggeman at the conference in St. Simon the preceding week. It is described as a 'Jan-

uary Adventure in Emerging Christianity.'

### Thursday, Jan. 31

• PTO meeting at the Highlands School. The Freshman class is hosting a fundraiser dinner at 5 p.m. before the meeting at 6 p.m. Spaghetti, chicken fingers, salad, drinks and desert. Also there will be for sale home made breads, pies and cakes.

### Beginning Friday, Feb. 1

• 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!, opening Friday, Feb 1 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.

### Tuesday, Feb. 5

• 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 (cphi2@verizon.net) 526-4038. The Assault on Reason by Gore. Coordinator, John Gaston

### Tuesday, Feb. 12

• 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 (cphi2@verizon.net) 526-4038. The Assault on Reason by Gore. Coordinator, John Gaston

• "Take Charge of Your Health" Lecture series by Cashiers-Highlands Chiropractic & Acupuncture presents a lecture series - "Inflammation and your diet." 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.

### 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 addition 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.

### 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 addition information, please contact Creighton Peden 526-4038. "Our Biotech Future," by Freeman Dawson. The New York Review of Books, Vol. 54, No. 12, July 19, 2007. Coordinator: Ed Gettys.

• "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 cross-

roads. 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.

### 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-

kins will play the piano.

### April 20-30

• Highlands United Methodist Church trip to the Holy Land Trip: Please speak with Pastor Mike or Pastor Todd for more details.

### Friday & Saturday, July 11-12

• Bascom-Louise Gallery's annual "Mountains in Bloom" Garden Festival and will feature a two-day exhibit of some of the prettiest plants, flowers and trees grown by area residents and visitors. For more information, call Donna Woods, Bascom-Louise Gallery's events director, at (828) 526-0207.

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## ... HIS & HERS continued from page 7

times, and I'm proud to say that he not only ordered grits, but black-eyed peas. I imagine that he doesn't get the chance to eat them that often, living in Colorado. Of course, the grits were a fancy schmancy variety, with cheese and peppers. He must have liked them, because when I finished enough of what was on my plate to start noticing what

was on other people's, they were all gone. So much for asking for a little taste. Next time, I'll be faster.

So, there you have it. Life is supposed to be an adventure, and when you consider how much of your time is spent eating, you might as well be a little adventurous there, too. I have to shake my head when parents tell me that all

their kids will eat is chicken nuggets and fries. Shame on them! If it hadn't been for my parents, I wouldn't know the joys of spinach (which I love), horsemeat (don't bother writing in to complain, I didn't personally dispose of Trigger), and haggis. Then there are people like John, whose favorite vegetable is lima beans. There's always gotta be one, isn't there?

About the Author: Michelle A. Mead

is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She lives on top of a mountain near Highlands. Michelle is a member of the Highlands Writers Group. A number of good meals have gone into making her what she is today. Some of those meals include grits....and snails.

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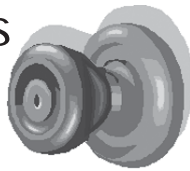
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## • COUNTRY CLUB NEWS •

### Highlands Country Club gives more than 300 Christmas gifts to community

For 80 years, Highlands Country Club has been giving back to the Highlands community. A recent survey indicated that HCC members and staff are involved in over 70 non-profit organizations on the plateau.

Most recently the club won the Most Bountiful Award for its entry in the Highlands Christmas Parade. Over 300 gifts

were donated by HCC members through their "Christmas in October Party," and area non-profits were given the opportunity to contact the club to claim the gifts. The recipients included the Highlands Emergency Council, the International Friendship Center, and Highlands Community Child Development Center

and The Food Pantry.

"Highlands Country Club is pleased to be an active and responsible participant in the Town of Highlands," said Martha Betz, Club Administrator. "Our members have always been extremely generous, and this year's donation of over 300 gifts to the community was no exception."

... SUBJECT continued from page 1

"So you're willing to change the ordinances to benefit someone's business model?" asked Dotson. "Or each time someone wants to build a kiosk you'll change the ordinance to accommodate them?"

Town Administrator Richard Betz said that would have to be the case as the ordinance now stands.

Parking requirements associated with the State Employees Credit Union ATM planned for the plaza will go before the Zoning Board when the Special Use Permit is requested.

Questions came up concerning parking allocations, the ATM will not be a drive-up, so people will have to park in spots already allocated to other businesses in the plaza.

#### OEI Valet Parking

At Wednesday's Town Board meeting, much discussion arose over extending Old Edwards Inn's valet parking allotment.

OEI is supposed to supply 20 spaces per each valet spot. It has two spots so 40 spots are required in the lot on Spring Street.

The town waived the requirement temporarily to accommodate OEI's construction trailer temporarily sitting in the lot. The waiver allows 30 spots instead of 40 to be regained when the trailer is moved.

Commissioner Buz Dotson suggested eliminating one of the two valet spots on Main Street on the grounds that the spot could be better used by others and suggested tying the number of valet spots to the number of rooms in the OEI's main inn — that of 25.

But Mario Gomes, CEO of OEI, explained that the two, 15-minute valet spots are used for Madison's Restaurant, the Spa and the Lodge particularly when guests with

reservations go to main inn lobby to register.

"They don't have to register in the main inn because they can check in at The Lodge, but they stop there when they see the OEI sign and come into the lobby to register," said George Mathis with OEI.

Questions arose as to how much OEI's valet parking lot is used.

Mathis said there were 5,800 cars in the valet parking last year; 480 a month, an average of 18-20 cars per day.

"You are looking at this all backwards," said Gomes. "We are taking cars off Main Street and putting them in our lot. If you want them parking on Main Street, that's fine, we don't have to provide parking."

The Old Edwards Inn and Madison's Restaurant are in the B1 zone where parking doesn't have to be supplied by businesses.

"We'll use the lot to build a building and they can park wherever they want," said Gomes.

Commissioner Amy Patterson said it was reasonable to allow the valet parking especially since OEI uses it for the restaurant, too. "They are keeping cars off Main Street," she said.

Commissioner Dennis DeWolf said OEI's valet parking was a positive thing.

"They provide parking for two other buildings and since the inn is in the B1 zone they could park on Main Street.

Commissioner Hank Ross said without the town's own study the board can't dispute what OEI claims as to valet lot use. "But maybe we don't need to even do a study," he said. "The rationale is that they take cars off Main Street.

In the end, the board voted 4 to 1 to

extend the 20 valet parking spots for one spot for one more year at which time the construction trailer will be out of the lot and the correct number of spots — 40 — will have to be designated. The board also agreed to do a study of its own to verify OEI's parking figures.

#### Pole Violations

The town's pole attachment ordinance is still in the works, but in the meantime, McGavran Engineering has identified several violations in the town's pole plant.

Violators are the town, Northland Cable and Verizon and violations include riser/triplex placement. Riser/transformer placement, triplex placement, vicinity to a street light, communication attachment spacing, ground clearance near street crossings, guying and holes in cable TV poles.

Of the 535 poles McGavran has audited it has identified violations on almost every one. There are 2,700 poles in the system.

"There are hundreds of violations of this type," representatives said. "Each pole has two attachments and every other pole has some sort of violation with attachments coming too close to power lines, near homes and where children play."

McGavran representatives pointed out spots which could cause a fatality as well as potential pole failures. Ed Sullivan, with McGavran, said the problems need to be addressed before someone gets hurt.

"You have an opportunity to respond to this situation and do something about it. These are serious concerns about situations that need to be corrected," he said. "You should take this under consideration and think about expediting this business and get working on what needs to be done."

Aside from potential fatal situations which Attorney Bill Coward said should be addressed immediately, he said the town can't take action to enforce violations under the old ordinance. Once the new ordinance is adopted, remediation action can be taken.

A draft of the ordinance was presented but there are numerous technical questions the board wants to discuss with Town Engineer Lamar Nix prior to adoption.

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### Macon County health services offered at Zachary Park on Buck Creek Road

The Macon County Public Health Center provides services for Highlands at the Buck Creek Road clinic.

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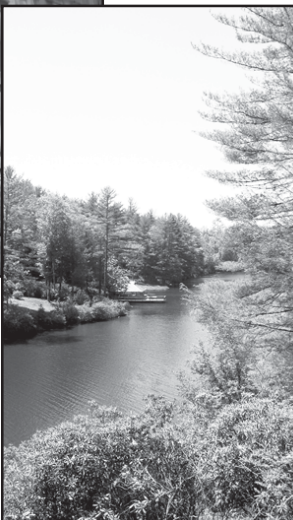
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# ... SALAZRULO continued from page 5

beliefs, who would rather lose an election than a war. At a time that our country struggles with a growing illegal immigration, John McCain has stood firm in his determination to reach a comprehensive solution to the problem. He has refused to pander to those who vilify the new wave of immigrants.

I'll be surprised if Barak Obama doesn't continue his remarkable run. His message of hope and unity are more appealing than Hilary Clinton's hunger for power, and more compelling than John Edwards' thirst for watered down class warfare. That is not to say that Edwards or Clinton will not ultimately claim his party's nomination. Barack Obama is still black, even if the people of the white state of Iowa failed to notice. That is something we might keep in mind. Racism may not be as pervasive in America as I had believed. In a country whose

population is increasingly hyphenated; African-American, Cuban-American, Mexican-American, and whatever-American, there may be a previously unrecognized longing for a return to the unity that made us a great nation. It would be ironic if a farm state like Iowa alerted us to the fact. I'll take the opinion of one well informed Iowan over the votes of a hundred intellectually lazy citizens responding to a negative ad, just as I value the opinion of one Shakespearean scholar more than those a thousand college freshman who read Cliff Notes the night before a Macbeth exam.. I might sound anti-democratic. I might appear elitist. Mostly, I dream of a day when we don't talk about Iowa being unrepresentative, when we don't discuss Asian-Americans in California, Afro-Americans in Detroit, or Latinos in Florida, when we are one, when we are Americans.

# ... MULLEN continued from page 10

roads around the Big Creek arm of Lake Sequoyah where we derive our water supply for the Town of Highlands. We are waiting now on word from Senator John Snow as to whether we have been approved for the \$280,000 needed for paving of Hickory Hill, Chowan and Cullasaja Roads. If this money is not obtained from the state of N.C. contingency fund, we will have to put this into our budget for the following fiscal year. I talked to Senator Snow just this past Friday and he is working on it. These roads should be a priority in 2008-2009.

In 2008 we also must begin work on our stormwater plan. The first area that needs attention is the Harris Lake-Mill Creek drainage area which includes the new Pine Street Park area. Hopefully we can get started with that soon.

An ongoing project is the development of architectural drawings for a new Town Hall. The Town of Highlands deserves a well built new Town Hall which supplies the growing

needs of both the administration and the police department. Both areas are terribly cramped for space as our needs grow each year. I hope we will be able to complete the planning of this building by the end of 2008 and begin to decide how we will pay for it in the next year. The sooner we can make these important decisions the better it will allow our town government to work more effectively.

We are pleased in Town Hall to welcome our newest department head, Joe Cooley, who has taken over the Planning and Development Department. He is in the process of getting up to speed in this job and meeting the people he will be working with on the Town, Planning and Zoning boards. Joe is well qualified for this important assignment with both a Masters degree in town planning and a law degree. He is already fitting in very well in Town Hall as a personable well qualified individual and is working hard to learn our ordinances and systems.

# ... LETTERS continued from page 2

ness." As they arise from ignorance humans have expressed madness on countless levels. Remember the torture chambers of the Inquisition—pouring molten metal into a victim's mouth in the name of Jesus?

As to a more extended karmic judgment Kathleen and I left the door ajar to the possibility of reincarnation. I like to think of the soul as an M&M: the rich chocolate spirit of G.O.D. remains trapped in a thin candy shell of ego at the end of an unenlightened life — and is destined for rebirth (like waking up to "I

Got You Babe" in the movie "Groundhog Day") until the ego-shell is at last dissolved by final renunciation of the falsehood of self (the only anti-Christ I am aware of).

In any case, thanks to Mr. Chastain for his thoughtful letter. Those who are interested in seeing our theology presented in much greater detail should check our book out from Hudson Library or order it from Cyrano's Bookshop.

Arthur Hancock  
Highlands



# POLICE & FIRE

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the weeks of Dec. 28-Jan. 9. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Dec. 28

• Jose Ordez-Vasquez, 38, of Highlands, was arrested for driving without a license and cited for driving left-of-center at N.Cobb and N.C. 28.

Dec. 31

• At 8:50 a.m., a motorist at N.C. 106 and Arnold Road was cited for speeding 51 mph in a 35 zone at NC 106 and Arnold Road.

• At 9:15 a.m., a motorist at NC 106 and Spring Street was cited for driving with an expired registration.

• At 12:20 p.m. officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at the Exxon Station at

Main and N.C. 106. The driver responsible was cited for driving without a license, making an unsafe movement and a criminal summons was issued to the owner of the vehicle for allowing an unlicensed driver operate the vehicle.

Jan. 1

• At 1 a.m., Diana Almond, 47, of Highlands was arrested for DWI, possession of drugs, and resisting arrest on N.C. 28.

Jan. 2

• At 10:15 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Hickory Hill and Chowan roads.

Jan. 3

• At 12:45 p.m., officers investigated an unattended death at a residence on Maple Street. The person died of natural causes.

• At 13:15 p.m., officers responded to a

two-vehicle accident at N.C. 106.

Jan. 4

• At 1 p.m., officers investigated a broken garage door at a home on Foreman Street to see if the home had been broken into. The door had just come off the track.

Jan. 5

• At 2:15 p.m., Matthew Newton Holt, 17, of Franklin, was arrested for possession of drugs, drug paraphernalia and possession of a knife (concealed weapon, at 555 N. 4th Street.

Jan. 6

• At 3:23 p.m., a motorist on N.C. 28, was cited for speeding 50 mph in a 35 zone.

• Over the week, the dept. responded to two alarm calls and issued 9 warning tickets.

The following is the Highlands Fire &

Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Jan 2-5.

Jan. 2

• The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Cullasaja Club Dr.

• The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Dillard Road. The alarm was set off when a furnace kicked on.

Jan. 3

• The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Hickory Hill which was set off by food burning.

• The dept. responded to an alarm at OEI Cottage on Church Street. It was set off when a water pipe burst.

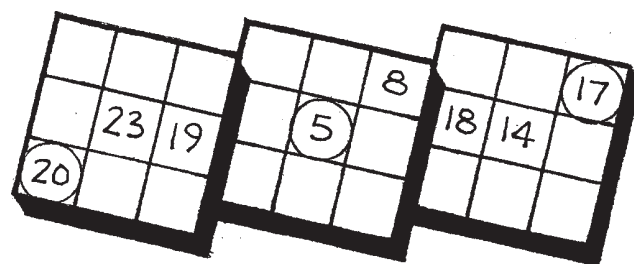
Jan. 5

• The dept. responded to an alarm at a OEI cottage on Church Street set off by a water pipe that burst.

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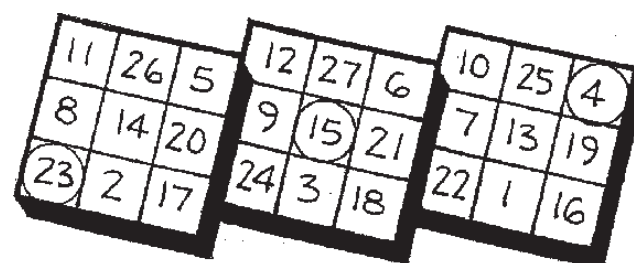
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Solution to #AN1E in Jan. 3 issue



### 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**  
"People from the East"

#### ACROSS

1. Large Amount (3)
2. Decay (3)
3. Chinese beverage (3)
4. After nine (3)
5. Drunken (3)

#### DOWN

6. Negative (3)
7. Walked fast (3)
8. Is (Sp.) (4)
9. Shoe pattern (4)

S				E <sup>7</sup>				L
<sup>1</sup>	O		S		<sup>8</sup>	R		
		R			N	S		
<sup>6</sup> N			A <sup>2</sup>	O	T		I	
	R			N			L	
<sup>3</sup> T		A	I <sup>9</sup>	S				R
	<sup>4</sup>	E			L	R		
	L		R				I <sup>10</sup>	
R		<sup>5</sup>		T				E

Solution to Jan. 3 puzzle

Y	A	P	L	U	E	H	O	S
H	U	S	O	A	Y	E	P	L
L	O	E	P	S	H	A	U	Y
E	Y	H	U	P	S	O	L	A
P	L	A	Y	H	O	U	S	E
O	S	U	E	L	A	P	Y	H
A	H	L	S	O	P	Y	E	U
U	P	Y	A	E	L	S	H	O
S	E	O	H	Y	U	L	A	P



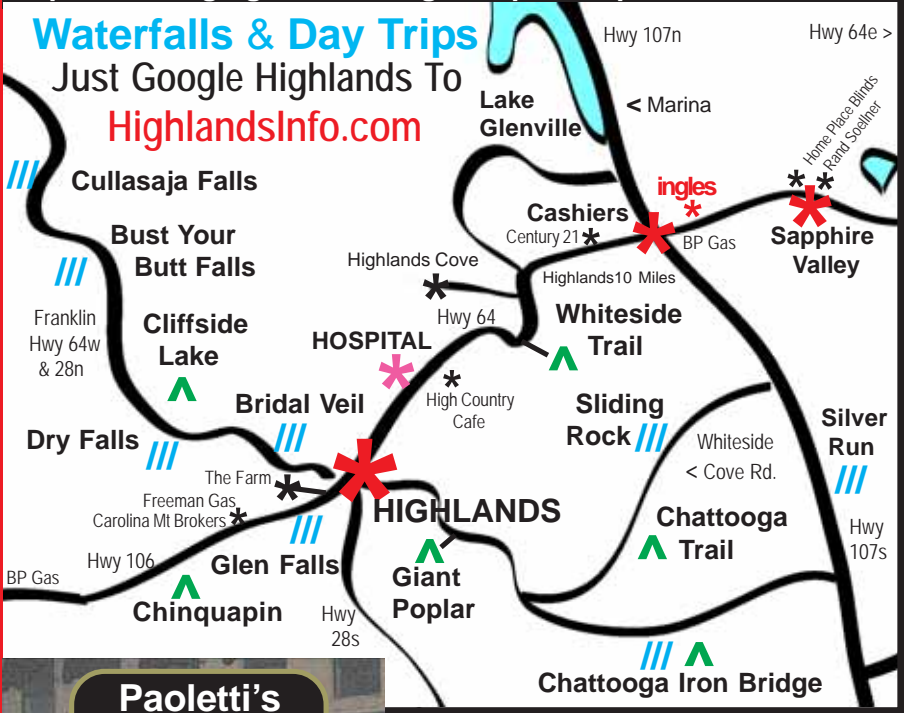
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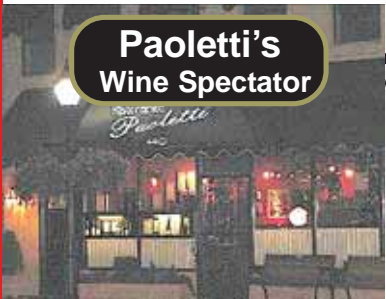


# Highlands Map

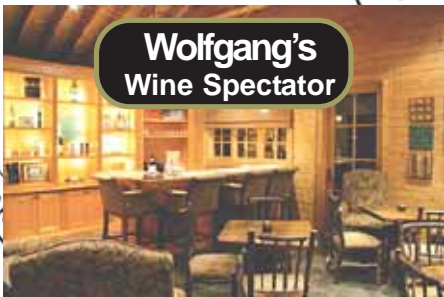
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- 5 Madison's
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- 8 Pescado's
- 9 Rib Shack
- 10 Wolfgang's

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- 11 Wholesale Down

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- 3 Twigs
- 4 Summit One

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- 1 Paoletti
- 2 Fressers
- 3 Golden China
- 4 Log Cabin
- 5 Madison's
- 6 Oak St Cafe
- 7 Paoletti
- 8 Pescado's
- 9 Rib Shack
- 10 Wolfgang's

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