

Highlands' Newspaper FREE

Volume 6, Number 3

PDF Version – www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2008

On-going

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

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

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

- "The Circle of Life" support group at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital at 10 a.m. until noon. Call Barbara Buchanan at 526-1402 or Florence Flanagan at 743-2567.

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 in the Fellowship Hall.

- 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 Saturday

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

Friday, Jan. 18

- Highlands School early dismissal at 11:45 a.m.

Saturday, Jan. 19

- The Highlands Memorial Post 370 of the American Legion will meet at the Highlands Civic Center. There will be a pancake breakfast at 9 a.m. followed by the meeting. Call Ed Jones. 742-0986.

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.

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. For more information, please contact Creighton Peden (cphi2@verizon.net) 526-4038.

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
37-23°F	30-10°F	29-12°F

Antique Show back in Highlands

The Highlands Playhouse Antique Show will once again be in Highlands.

At the January 16 Town Board meeting, commissioners agreed to let the Playhouse use the Highlands Civic Center, Sept. 22-28 for the Fourth Annual Highlands Antique

Show, its premier fundraiser.

"It's a plus to have the show in Highlands," said member of the Playhouse board Dwight Bryant. "Those who attend the show also shop and dine in Highlands. The business owners benefited when the show was in Highlands."

Last year, after the town said the Playhouse couldn't use the Civic Center for the amount of time requested, the antique show was moved to the Sapphire Valley Community Center.

Because of the location, the

• See ANTIQUE page 8

• Inside •

Letters	2
Wooldridge	4
Another View	5
From Turtle Pond	6
His & Hers	7
Coaches Corner	8
Classifieds	16
Upcoming Events	18
Fire & Rescue	23



Mayor Don Mullen asked MC Commission board to remember past commitment to keep lines of communication open between governing bodies. Chairman Charlie Leatherman, and Commissioners Ronnie Beale and Brian McClellan look on. Photo by Kim Lewicki

Mayor hopes future will model past

During the public session at the Macon County Commission meeting Monday night, Highlands Mayor Don Mullen read from a resolution dated March 1, 1989 in which the towns of Highlands and Franklin and the Macon County Commission vowed to work together.

"Communication is important between the government and the people, but it's also important between governing bodies," said Mullen. "I present this resolution in hopes that in the future we can meet more frequently and come together over mutual concerns and differences and work together. We need more communication. Misunderstandings cause a lot of problems and we can all do

a lot more."

The 1989 resolution was signed by the Highlands Mayor John Cleaveland, the mayor of Franklin, the county commission and the County Manager, Jack Horton.

Specifically, the resolution says that in addition to water and wastewater services, there are a number of other areas in Macon County which require multi-jurisdictional attention including but not limited to tourism, recreation, public housing, law enforcement, solid waste, public libraries and education.

Signers of the resolution vowed to meet no less frequently than once each quarter with the chairman of the MC Commission,

the mayors of Highlands and Franklin, the county manager and the town managers of Highlands and Franklin to discuss matters which any of the three units may feel to be of potential benefit or harm to either of them. In addition, consideration was to be given to shared financing, shared implementation and shared administration confirmed by an addendum to the 1989 joint resolution.

2007-2008 Rec agreement final

Having received a comprehensive inventory of the town's recreation facilities and itemized description of Rec Park expendi-

• See REC AGREEMENT page 8

Landfill changes will affect Highlands

The county and town have been discussing pending changes at the landfill on Rich Gap Road for more than a year. Now, time is of the essence and decisions must be made.

At Monday's Macon County Commission meeting, Solid Waste Director Chris Stahl said the permits are in place to proceed but due to the late date of "getting this off the ground" the new construction and debris (C&D) transfer station probably won't be constructed by June 30, 2007 as originally planned.

"There will probably be a disruption of service from June 30 when the C&D landfill closes and completion of the project," he said. "Given the winters in Highlands and the nature of the work, we won't finish this project by June 30th."

Stahl said until the C&D transfer station on Rich Gap Road is complete contractors in Highlands will have to haul their construction debris down to Franklin, just as Franklin contractors have been hauling their debris up to Highlands. The same will hold true for municipal solid waste (MSW).

Bids for the job have to be awarded by February 28 and financing through the Local Government Commission (LGC) needs

• See LANDFILL page 13

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

There's a reason America doesn't realize there's a war going on

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to Fred Wooldridge's column in last week's Highlands' Newspaper, "War you say? What war?"

You are right about not noticing the war in Iraq as we go about our day-to-day activities, and you are right about being led around by our noses.

To date we have spent about 576 billion dollars, lost 4,000 Americans lives and have 60,000 wounded. The current bill for each U.S. household is approximately \$4,100 and counting, the sacrifice is the fact that we're passing that on to our children and grandchildren.

By the way, 4 million Iraqis are refugees and 700,000 have been killed, many innocent civilians killed by our bullets and bombs.

Every American should think about what might go through the minds of their relatives and neighbors, imagine a force of foreigners patrolling the streets of Highlands for years dressed like Darth Vader occasionally kicking doors sometimes shooting us and calling in bombing raids to kill a suspect and anyone unfortunate enough to be to close by. How would you feel? Can you see how this might create a terrorist?

You mention there aren't factories filled with hard working men and women, oops, we sent them to China. "There's no unity in this country," you say.

Many Americans vehemently opposed this war as did most of the PLANET! Why? Because they educated themselves about it. That is the shortest way I can say it and stay under 500 words. 9/11 and Iraq, where's that connection? By the way, where were all the anti-war folks when we went to Afghanistan after Al-qaeda and the Taliban? Stick to your humor, Fred. It's much better.

Bruce Dickey, Highlands

• MILESTONE •

Power makes list

Rachel Power, Highlands Schoiol Class of 2007, was named to the Chancellor's List for the fall semester at Appalachian State University. A GPA of 3.85 or beeter is needed.

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



• THANK YOU'S •

Community supports The Girls' Clubhouse

The Girls' Clubhouse says thanks to Ralph Stevens of Jolie's on Main Street, Bruce Sloan of Mountain Fresh Foods, Lelia Chapman and the Highlands community as a whole in supporting its projects and fundraising efforts.

Ralph Stevens donated \$300 worth of new clothes for the club to include with its Emergency Council Christmas gifts; Bruce Sloan gave the club materials to decorate the tables at the community wide Thanksgiving dinner at the Rec Park, Lela Chapman, who has supported the club with donations since its inception, donated \$100 to club efforts and the Highlands' Community religiously purchased the baked goods during the club's bake sales.

Thanks for the continued support.

The Girls' Clubhouse
Highlands

Community supports La Noche Navidena

If you were at the Civic Center on the cold rainy Saturday night of this past Dec. 15 you already know and understand what an unusual Christmas party was taking place.

First, although the guest list included anyone who wanted to come, the majority of the guests were people not usually seen dressed up to come out to a party because they are almost always working, serving in the background.

In a role reversal of sorts, the "workers" at this party were restaurant owners, civic leaders, elected officials, church goers, retired professionals, doctors, "high profile" folks, and that night they performed acts of real humility, unselfishness and love toward their fellow human beings which exemplify the true spirit of Christmas.

This was the fifth annual Christmas Family Night or "La Noche Navidena."

The hosts of this event were the International Friendship Center and its team of extraordinary volunteers.

In the lobby of the Civic Center name tags and raffle numbers were given out to everyone who came in. The people then waited a short time in a side room where they were served chips and salsa until the dinner was ready and they were

• See THANKS page 22

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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State commends county departments for great job



At the Jan. 14 Macon County Commission meeting, the commission presented Finance Director Evelyn Southard with an award which was given to the department by the state. "The county finance office again received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). The award is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting," read Chairman Charlie Leatherman. Standing with Southard is Commissioner Jim Davis and members of her staff: Chuck Young, Lesa Southard and Bobbie Soleou.



Also at Monday night's meeting, Chairman Leatherman announced that on Nov. 15, 2007 the North Carolina Association of Assessing Officers (NCAAO) presented the 2007 NCAAO County Jurisdictional Award to Tax Administrator Richard Lightner at its annual conference in Greensboro. "The award is presented to recognize the county that has achieved outstanding public service and advancement in the tax assessment field. Last year, 2007, was the first year the award was given to small- or medium-size counties," he said. Commissioner Jim Davis presented Lightner with the award.

Employees with county 25 and 30 years recognized



Photos by Kim Lewicki



In his "State of the County" message delivered at the Jan. 14 commission meeting, Commission Charlie Leatherman said the county must ensure that it continues to employ and keep quality people and the board must be committed to giving employees what they need to serve the citizens of Macon County. Pictured with Commissioner Ronnie Beale are Barbara Jacobs and Kathy Rogers who have worked for Macon County for 30 years. Above: Commissioner Jim Davis presented 25-year employees with plaques -- Joe Doster, Teresa Holbrooks, Jane Kimsey, Steve Ledford and Margaret Perry. For more employee-recognition photos, see page 10.

• OBITUARIES •

John Joseph Lyons, Jr.

John Joseph Lyons, Jr., 79, of Anderson, S.C., husband of the late Mary Ann Hammett Lyons, died Jan. 5 at AnMed Health Medical Center.

Born in Anderson, S.C., Lyons was the son of the late John Joseph Lyons and Sarah Bradley Lyons. He was a member of Saint Mary of the Angels Catholic Church. Lyons attended Springhill College and Clemson University where he was a lifelong IPTAY member. He was a U.S. Marine veteran.

Lyons, called Johnny by Orr-Lyons Mill employees, was the third generation of a textile family known as textile leaders of the south. Orr-Lyons Mill, the first fully electric textile mill in the country, was run by the Lyons family for 90 years, from its inception in 1900 to its closing in 1990, when Mr. Lyons was general manager. He was known for treating mill workers, supervisors and executives as family. He enjoyed spending time with his family at his cabin in Highlands.

Survivors include his sons James Hammett Lyons and his wife Miriam and Johnny Lyons III and his wife Barbara, all of Anderson, S.C., and Marty Lyons and his wife Anne of Decatur, Ill; his daughters Gay Lyons Haley and her husband Bill of Atlanta, GA, Lee Lyons of Highlands, N.C., Andrea Lyons Cannell of Bluffton, S.C., and his sister Anne Lyons Briskey of Anderson, S.C., and Highlands.

Seven grandchildren, John and Haley, Mary Anna Lyons, Jaime Lyons, Heidi Wirey, Haley Lyons and Andrew Cannell, also survive.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by his brother Gary Lyons, his grandson Hayden Abney Fulp, and son-in-law, D.J. Cannell.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests memorials be made to St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Church, 1821 White Street, Anderson, S.C., 29624.

The McDougald Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Jack Walker

1990 Hall of Fame Inductee

Jack Walker died January 14, 2008 in Miami, FL, after a brief illness. He is served by his wife, Polly and two daughters, Weslie and Edie. There will be no service at this time.

Born John C. Walker in Savannah, GA, February 27, 1924, Jack (as he has been known for as long as he can remember) moved with his family to Miami, FL, while he was still in grade school. In fact, he met his wife Polly when they were in the ninth grade and, in Jack's words, "we've been dating ever since."

Jack had lived in Highlands for the last few years and had made many friends in the area. Anyone who knew Jack loved him, his quick smile and wit were his trademark. Memorial contributions can be made to the Highlands-Cashiers Animal Shelter.

Walker has left behind a record that may never be surpassed; the drive for at least 500 tournaments in the U.S. and 10 foreign countries, including 7 world championships, 19 Nationals and 21 Masters tournaments. He has been honored repeatedly with the prestigious Fred Wiley Memorial Award, named for the only other person elected to the Water Ski Hall of Fame for his boat driving contribution to the sport and presented annually to the outstanding Nationals driver by his peers. Serving at one time on the Board of Directors of the American Water Ski Association, Walker assisted in the establishment of the AWSA Boat Drivers Rating System. He was one of the initial Senior Driver approved under the program.

– Correction –

In the "Town wins ETJ case, again" story that ran in the Jan. 3 edition of Highlands' Newspaper, we reported that Town Attorney Bill Coward said the county has a limited right to appeal to the Superior Court of Macon County. It should have read "the Supreme Court of North Carolina." We regret the error and are happy to set the record straight.



Wonderful mountain home with outstanding golf course views. Mountain flair abounds from this 4 BR/ 4.5 BA home with professional grade kitchen, additional family room and outdoor living space with fireplace. A 4 car drive thru Porte Cochere, 2 BR on the main level and 2 BR + office and family room on the lower level. A show stopper! \$1,195,000



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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

The first church of Fred

Enough already with this endless philosophical debating about God's roll. Here's how it really is. But before you pluck the chickens and heat the tar buckets, hear me out 'cause you might find tiny shreds of true hidden away in this nonsense.

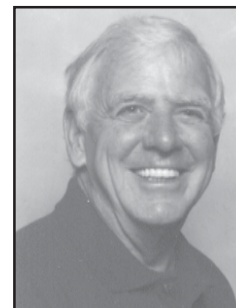
For starters, get out your history books and read about the millions upon millions of people that have been murdered in the name of religion. This has been going on since the beginning of recorded time and I'm sure before that. If you don't think so, your head is where the sun doesn't shine. Religion and belief in God is the single highest cause of carnage over any other single factor on this planet. Humanity's current religious gig for killing in the name of God is called Jihad, but there have been many, many others.

Here's the fun part. Let's invent a new religion. To help feed my ego, we'll call it the First Church of Fred, a religion where no one wants us killed. Again, don't get your shorts in a wad because all I'm doing is what everyone does when they become disgruntled with their church. They splinter and create a new one; happens all the time.

Better still, at my church there are few rules and no rituals to follow. If Catholics don't show up on Sunday they won't go straight to hell 'cause they're already there. Protestants don't have to hold hands, close their eyes and say, "Thank you, Lord, for my smokin' hot wife" and silly stuff like that. Jewish folks can join my church and know half the world is no longer trying to make them extinct.

My church threatens no one. There's no missions to spread "the good word," no praying for Aunt Hattie's cancer to be healed and no collections for the poor and disadvantaged. These are the kind of things that make other religions want to kill us.

Consider this. Before we were born, we existed in another life form at another place much nicer than earth. Don't call it heaven because some nut out there will want to kill you. While we were at this wonderful place we won't call heaven, we messed up big time and had to be punished. Then we were sentenced to a planet called Earth. How bad we messed up determines how long and how severe



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email:

askfredanything@aol.com

our sentences. In short, Earth is a place of punishment but don't call it hell because, again, some weirdo will want to snuff you out.

Consider yourself a prisoner serving a term and only your creator knows when it will end. If your crime was minor, your sentence is light and you are having an easy time on the planet. You may even get lucky and croak early.

If you really messed up bad, then your punishment is more severe and long

term. This explains why there's no fairness in life. The fact is it shouldn't be fair. Like prisoners, some have it easy and some have it hard, but they're all serving time.

The best part about belonging to the First Church of Fred is that our preachers don't say, "The Lord works in mysterious ways" because He doesn't. And here's another little item I'm sure you haven't thought of. People can't tell you to go to hell 'cause you're already there. In short, life on Earth is as bad as it's going to get.

When you attend my church, the preacher will tell you to relax and make the best of your sentence by not harming...or helping others. More important, don't try to change other people's sentences because that upsets the creator. What right does anyone have to change His sentence by trying to make things better...or worse for someone?

If you kill, you are in deep ca ca because you have prematurely sent that person back from where he came. Better you should mind your own business, take care of yourself and let everyone else do the same. If everyone joined the Church of Fred, life on Earth would be a lot less violent. Ever wonder why no good deed goes unpunished and only the good die young. Ta da, now you know!

This part is the best. Regardless of how good or bad you are, sooner or later your sentence will be served and you can return to the blissful existence you once had. That's my story and if you believe it, then you are like some others I know who are inhaling much too much cannabis sativa.

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

• ANOTHER VIEW •

Frustration at McDonalds

There are nicely paved roads in Banner Elk, N.C, cable TV, and cell phone service, if you're lucky and have Verizon. Rural electrification, broadcasting, and an expanded highway system are generally accepted as responsible for the integration of Southern Appalachia into the United States. Inward migration has hastened the process in recent years. Banner Elk has its share of wealthy retirees and weekend residents.



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

It boasts attorneys who practice in Miami, and whose families live there full time. It has a Lowe's and a Subway, expensive Italian restaurants and gated communities.

If you are ever visiting in Banner Elk, beware of McDonalds. Our friends, weekend residents of nearby Beech Mountain, warned us that the local Mickey D is the slowest in the world. I had never heard of a slow McDonalds and said so. Bull has taken up ski racing, so we're making frequent trips to the area. We stayed with those friends last weekend. Sunday's race was scheduled for Appalachian Ski Mountain. Our friends, whose daughter also races, suggested that we convoy to the race and stop at McDonalds for breakfast. It struck me as odd that they would suggest a slow restaurant when we were running late. McDonalds is known for speed and consistency, if not for excellence or healthy fare. I suspected that our friends were exaggerating, and said as much to Lizzie.

We followed our friends to the drive-through lane, which seemed risky. We waited for what seemed eternity while they placed their order. I glanced in my rear view mirror. I didn't want to get boxed in like Sonny at the toll booth in the Godfather. We crawled to the ordering station. "Welcome to McDonalds. May I take your order," the voice said. I was glad that she hadn't asked if I wanted to try the new belly buster burrito. I usually have a pretty good idea what I want, and if it happens to be what they're pushing that day, I change on the spot. I don't enjoy being manipulated. I also hate it when they ask if I want hash browns. I usually answer that if I did, I would have ordered them without prompting. I'm not a particularly good customer. "McGriddle, bacon and cheese only, sausage biscuit, bacon egg and cheese biscuit, small coffee, orange juice and small diet coke, no ice," I answered.

"What," the faceless voice asked.

"What, what," I answered.

"What did you want," she asked.

I started again. "Bacon and cheese McGriddle, no egg on the McGriddle," I began.

"Wait a minute," she replied.

After what seemed like a minute, I ventured a timid "Hello." I don't think you can lose the signal at those places, but I'm not sure. She asked for more time. I didn't

have much choice. I was boxed in. I repeated our order and was instructed to go to the first window. When I arrived, the young woman asked pleasantly, "What was your total?"

"Aren't you supposed to know," I asked, before capitulating and adding "\$9.47."

I realized that, for her, multi-tasking was limited to breathing and any other single activity. She was unable, or unwilling, to take my money and give me change while saying, "Welcome to McDonalds. May I take your order," to the guy who had me boxed in.

After laboriously searching out each entry on her touch screen for that order, she accepted my \$9.47 total and sent me to the next window, where the young woman, not the same one but probably her sister asked pleasantly, "What did you have?" I wanted to tell her that I had measles once, but that was years ago, and a trial fibrillation, but that was under control with exercise, good diet, and stress avoidance.

My heart felt as if skipped a beat or two, so I took a deep breath and repeated my order, starting with, "Bacon and cheese McGriddle, no egg on that McGriddle." When I got to orange juice, she said, "Our orange juice machine is out of order."

I knew they had a lot of trouble with the milk shake machine, but I didn't even know that orange juice came out of a machine. At Chick-fil-A, it comes in a tiny milk carton that says Tropicana on the side.

I asked for a refund, realizing as I did that this stubbornness might cause Bull to miss his race. The refund process went more smoothly than I had expected. Our order was mostly correct. They threw in an extra bacon egg and cheese biscuit, a free super size! We didn't tell. We felt that our patience should be rewarded.

That's when I saw our friend park his car and walk into the restaurant, bag in

• See ANOTHER VIEW page 21

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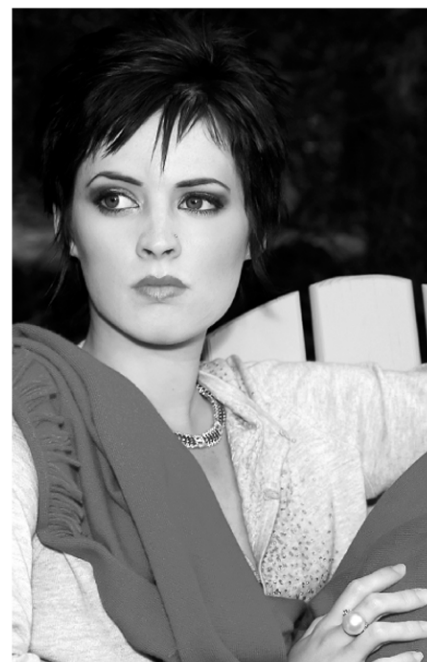


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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

Last week I responded to a letter-to-the-editor by Waylon Chastain questioning the premises of my "Oneness" philosophy and I'm continuing the discussion this week. Mr. Chastain suggested the use of "origin, meaning, morality, and destiny" as a tool to analyze a theology. I expounded on my philosophy and looked at "origin" last week and I'll address the other three points now, again comparing Oneness philosophy to mainstream Christianity.

Meaning. What is the "meaning" of life? Mr. Chastain agrees with us that meaning requires purpose, so what is the purpose of life? I would think for a Christian the answer is to be "saved," to develop a personal relationship with God/Jesus and go to heaven.

Tale of Two Deities – part two

In Oneness philosophy the purpose of life is the experience of life, the experience of I AM. The purpose of life is for the Immortal and Infinite to experience what it is to be mortal and finite: to live, to face death, to know childhood energy and old-age wisdom, to love, to hate, to win, to lose, to dream, to desire, to create, to experience the underlying Unity of it All.

Morality. There are two levels of morality to discuss. First is the relationship of God and the universe. Christians believe that these two spheres are fundamentally distinct and separate in nature. They believe God created a

world of creatures and set them loose with free will, but after a long time God decided the humans needed some help so he sent "His Son" to save them. I could write a whole article on this issue of morality alone, but I'll only say this: What about all those people who lived and died before Jesus was born, who from no fault of their own are condemned to everlasting torment? How could this be the work of a moral God, much less a God of love?

In Oneness philosophy, there is no distinction between God and the universe. They are inseparable. God is doing all of this to God's self. The question of morality simply doesn't apply.

The other meaning of "morality" concerns human behavior, like serial killing or pedophilia, and whether a philosophy helps inspire better behavior.

Christians believe that God uses the carrot and stick of heaven and hell to enforce moral behavior (though the underlying "bad" desires are often never addressed and simmer below the surface to sometimes erupt embarrassingly, as Ted Haggard recently illustrated). Mr. Chastain seems to believe that without a divine system of deterrence no one (or at least not very many) will choose to be good.

In Oneness philosophy morality is not based on a future judgment but on the realization that Everything is interconnected and part of the One, so if I hurt anything I am really hurting myself.

There is an interesting article on morality in the Jan. 13, 2008 *New York Times*, "The Moral Instinct," by Stephen Pinker, which asserts that one of the foundations of moral reasoning is the recognition that morality has to embrace a universal stance. That is, if it is bad for you to hurt me, it is also bad for me to hurt you. Mr. Pinker writes, "The core of this idea — the interchangeability of perspectives — keeps reappearing in history's best-thought-through moral philosophies, including the Golden Rule (itself discovered many times); Spinoza's Viewpoint of Eternity; the Social Contract of Hobbes, Rousseau and Locke; Kant's Categorical Imperative; and Rawls's Veil of Ignorance. It also underlies Peter Singer's theory of the Expanding Circle — the optimistic proposal that our moral sense, though shaped by evolution to overvalue self, kin and clan, can propel

us on a path of moral progress, as our reasoning forces us to generalize it to larger and larger circles of sentient beings." I do unto others as I would have them do unto myself because there is no other, there is only the One Self.

There is nothing in Oneness philosophy that says people who commit crimes should not be put in jail; they are just not condemned as evil. Mr. Chastain wonders how the lack of condemnation will comfort, for example, a raped woman. Personally I don't understand how condemnation comforts. In my experience, as long as I am angry at someone who has done something "wrong" to me — as long as

I am condemning them — I continue to suffer. Only when I step outside myself and find forgiveness and compassion for the one who "wronged" me can I find true relief.

From the point of view of Oneness philosophy the staggeringly vast experience of what it is to be alive encompasses the entire spectrum from utter horror and profound suffering to complete bliss. Within that spectrum some people are violently deranged and do unspeakable things but beneath the illusion there is only God doing this to God's self. All suffering disappears in the understanding that underneath it all there is only God.

Destiny. What is the destiny of the universe?

Christians see a place of utter changelessness forever. Whether it's heaven or hell, you'll be the same you in the same place for all of time. Think about it — it doesn't sound like a lot of fun to me.

Mr. Chastain misrepresented what *The Game of God* says about the destiny of the universe. The ultimate destiny of the universe as presented in *The Game of God* is complete and total reunion of All with All. However, in Oneness philosophy there is no reunion because there was never any separation. There is no destiny, there is just I AM. The whole point (see purpose, above) is experience.

Mr. Chastain seems to think the idea that the universe is for experience is a horrible concept because it means a "learning exercise without end." I for one would rather have a perpetually growing and expanding awareness than a static eternity spent in an unchanging heaven.

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



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• HIS & HERS •

Britney, Hillary, and redemption

Every time there's another story about Britney Spears' infantile, self-destructive behavior, I condemn the American press for covering that subject like a horse blanket. And I watch as the national I.Q. drops two points in a day because the Britney story is everywhere, on all channels.



Michelle Mead & John Armor
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But the performances of Hillary Clinton on the campaign trail and in presidential "debates" in Iowa and New Hampshire, demonstrate parallels between Britney and Hillary. The comparisons are in favor of the singer, not the lecturer.

The most incredible thing that Hillary has said, in front of God and everybody, is this, "I have been the most investigated, and as it turns out, the most innocent" of all the candidates. There is the little problem that innocent, like unique, is an absolute adjective. It is, or it isn't. It does not have degrees.

But the larger point, and one I think the American people in the form of the voters of Iowa and New Hampshire understand, is that avoiding trial and conviction are NOT the same as being innocent. There is such a thing as a would-be defendant who "beats the rap." He's guilty, but he got away with it.

More than a majority of the voters in those first two states have concluded that Hillary Clinton is dishonest, about things both personal and political. She says she offers "experience," yet she and her husband Bill, sit on the documents that describe her wife-of-the-President years.

I go further than that, and in the movie/DVD entitled "Hillary Uncensored" I call Hillary a criminal. I've invited her lawyers to sue me if they think my characterization of her is wrong in any way. Be that as it may, where's the parallel between Britney and Hillary.

Skipping the chapter and verse, suffice to say that I've had alcoholics in my family. One successfully fought the demon, and stayed sober for sixty years. One succumbed to the demon, and died alone of his disease.

Two things are necessary to get an alcoholic out of his pattern of destruction. One is that he has to hit bottom, and realize that he is on a suicidal path. The other, closely related necessity, is that the people close to him have to band together, state the truth, and stand ready to help the alcoholic climb out of his metaphysical grave.

Britney Spears, and the few people around her who are friends rather than cash-and-carry enablers, may have reached that point. She's young. She hasn't destroyed her health, yet. With some self-perception and a lot of help, Britney can turn things around, and have a decent and sober life ahead.

What about Hillary Clinton? Her prospects are not as bright.

Hillary is as addicted to money and power as Britney is to her pharmaceuticals of choice. Hillary's attitude toward donors is, if the body's warm and the check is good, he's on the list. Look at the "experience" she has in this department. The difference between Moktar Riady and Norman Hsu is that the first one gave a million dollars in illegal money to Bill, whereas the second gave a million dollars in illegal money to Hillary.

There are minor differences between Riady and Hsu. For instance, it seems likely that the ill-gotten donations from Riady came in part from the Communist government of China through the Lippo Group. That adds another felony to the list of (unpunished) crimes. That wrinkle does not, apparently, apply to Hsu.

Next, look at the people around Hillary. Is there a single one who is not a pilot fish to her shark? Is there a single one who isn't feeding off the scraps of power that fall to the side as she swims the political waters? And if not, who does she have around her who would tell her the truth when it is time for her to change her course, and save her life?

That's why I conclude that there is at least a chance that Britney will be redeemed, and will have a worthy life. On the other hand, I conclude that Hillary cannot be redeemed. Therefore, for the sake of the nation, she needs to be permanently defeated. Perhaps her defeat tomorrow in New Hampshire will suffice. If not, more of the same needs to be applied in other states.

If the alcoholic cannot be saved, all that's left is trying to save others from the effects of the alcoholic. That sad conclusion also applies in politics.

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

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Town says pole plant not dangerous

Allegations of a dangerous and faulty electric pole plant coupled with McGavran Engineering's refusing to stick to its contract had some commissioners rethinking the town's arrangement with the company.

"We don't feel there is anything dangerous in our system or any chance of a fatality as they claimed," said Town Administrator Richard Betz at Wednesday's Public Works Committee meeting. On top of that, Betz said McGavran doesn't want to complete the terms of its contract - to number the poles, audit the number of attachments and precisely measure the violations. "They are only saying what's out of compliance but without numbering or measuring just eyeballing."

Furthermore, with a tighter pole attachment ordinance in the works, the company's contractual expertise isn't needed - the ordinance is all the town needs to make attachments come into compliance concerning clearance violations.

After McGavran presented its photo and verbal account of a potentially dangerous plant last week, the town's GIS Technician, Matt Shuler, used the photo booklet McGavran provided to locate poles that supposedly pose physical threats to citizens.

"I went to the spot and couldn't find it," said Shuler. "There is a second line that goes through the woods, one pole to another, but the lines are so high I couldn't touch them. If I can jump and touch a line, it's at the minimum height and this one was so high I couldn't jump and touch it."

Town Engineer Lamar Nix took particular offense.

"I'm not aware of anything in our system that is hazardous," he said "Of course there is an electric hazard on every pole - there always is when you're dealing with other attachments. We have clearance issues and that's what we're trying to work on but I'm

... ANTIQUE continued from page 1

show didn't do well. "We actually lost money," said Playhouse board member Joanna Baumrucker.

Two years ago, when the show was in the Civic Center, the Playhouse pocketed a much needed \$8,000-\$9,000, plus the town received a donation of \$3,500.

Bryant said a polling of 86 businesses in town following the show two years ago showed 83 saying the show was a boost for business; one said it didn't help and two others said it didn't matter.

Sabrina Hawkins, owner of the Highlands Inn and the Hampton Inn, said she provided accommodations for the antique vendors and missed out on the \$12,000 she could have made.

"I sold 83 nights during the show in 2006. That was about \$12,000 which is room occupancy tax money, too," she said.

Mayor Don Mullen said there are a number of businesses in town that aren't going to make it and the board should do all it can to make sure people come to Highlands.

dumbfounded by what McGavran's saying. They're just blowing smoke, in my opinion."

He said his crew has been working the town's electric pole plant for 12-13 years and they have never encountered a potentially fatal situation anywhere.

At the Jan. 9 Town Board meeting, McGavran requested its contract be altered, but at the January 16 Town Board meeting, the board nixed the request.

"The Public Works Committee recommends that you go forward with the contract as written and there is no need to alter it," said Commissioner Hank Ross.

Mayor Don Mullen asked Ted McGavran if he was willing to do that. McGavran said he was.

That means instead of "eyeballing" violations, exact measurements will be taken and a complete audit will be made of each pole in the plant.

"They are obligated to capture a great deal of data on each pole," said Betz.

In a "gentlemen's agreement" Nix said McGavran agreed to tag the poles with a number. Wednesday night, McGavran said that wasn't in the contract.

Betz said numbering is in the contract and if McGavran paints a number on the pole, the town can go back and nail a tag onto the pole.

Wednesday night, Bill Staley, of Northland Cable, told the board that his company is committed to working with the town on pole attachment and safety issues. He also suggested the town form a Utility Committee comprised of representatives from the town and all the attacheses. "We need to work out the issues and consider long-term planning," he said. "The closer we work together, the better it will be."

The amended pole attachment ordinance will be finalized at the Feb. 6 Town Board meeting.

"We are in an economic downturn with 10 businesses going out of business due to a poor year."

John Shearl, who was in the audience said it's a "win-win" situation. "What's the negative issue?"

Bob Kieltyka, director of the Chamber of Commerce, said having the antique show in Sapphire Valley was a significant loss to the community last year. "There is strong support for this from the business community," he said.

Commissioner Dennis DeWolf said having the show elsewhere last year provided proof of the financial impact it has on the community.

"The fact that it's not a commercial entity competing but rather complementing what's going on I think it's a good thing," he said. "It's obvious people who come here spend more than just time going to the function."

Recreation Director Selwyn Chalker verified that nothing at the Rec Park will be disrupted.

• COACH'S CORNER •

Sing with me!



Ryan Potts
ryanpotts@hotmail.com

One of the things that I have been doing recently to supplement my income has been to officiate games down at the local recreation department. It's something to do in off time, and I figured it would be pretty easy since I have many fond memories of Saturday mornings down at the Rec Center in Franklin (and that horrible rubber floor, and the referee who wore blue jeans, and Lee Scruggs' eraser top haircut...but I digress)

Anyway, I discovered something I already knew, mainly from my own coaching experiences. I came to the conclusion that everyone hates officials-and it is a blinding, irrational hatred (much like my own hatred for officials, but that is another story).

It is from this experience that I wrote a little song about some of my own officiating endeavors. (The tune is to the Ballad of Jed Clampett)

"Come and listen to a story 'bout a man named Jed.

"Came to coach his game with his bel-

ly nice an' fed.

"He was hollerin at me something really harsh and rude, "Not calling three seconds made him one angry dude.

(In the lane that is...camped out...building a house)

"Well the next thing you know Jed's hands are in the air, Kin folk saying "Jed give that ref a scare!"

"He said a few words that contained profanity,

"So I had to break it down and give this guy a T(Foul that is...Potty Mouth...Bobby Knight).

"Well now the game is over for Jed and all his kin,

"You'd think a zebra shirt was a monumental sin.

"But they'll be surely back again to this locality,

"Just another afternoon with the fans hostility

"(Everyone hates referees, that's what I've learned now, Please folks Y'all be nice now, ya hear?)

... REC AGREEMENT continued from page 1

tures and revenues, the county is ready to hand over the \$500,000 Rec Park funds for fiscal year 2007-2008.

At the Jan. 14 Macon County Commission meeting, commissioners unanimously accepted the Interlocal Agreement between the county and the town of Highlands for recreational facilities for one year.

"Whereas the town expends substantial amounts for public recreation facilities and programs as described in the town's official 2007-2008 budget and whereas the recreation facilities and programs are open to all persons, and the town doesn't charge participants who don't reside within the town's municipal limits on any different basis than what is charged to town residents there by providing a substantial amount of recreational opportunities to citizens of Macon County residing outside of town;

"The purpose of this agreement is to provide for the efficient use, operation and maintenance of certain recreational facilities and the delivery of certain recreation services and programs both in the town of Highlands and the surrounding area of Macon County;

"The county agrees to pay the town a sum not to exceed \$500,000 to provide funding for the activities based on quarterly invoices from town. The county will maintain ownership of all the facilities of Buck Creek Recreation Park and Zachary Field and any improvements thereto. The town will maintain ownership control of all property committed to recreational services within its corporate limits, the town shall be responsible to the county for 1/2 of the annual expense of utilities at the Buck

Creek Recreation Park facility whose expense shall be deducted from the last quarterly payment. Upon request of the town, the county will provided documentation of the utility expenses to the town. In addition, the town shall be responsible to the county for 100% of the cost of sand purchased by the county for town facilities to be deducted from the last quarterly payment due.

The interlocal agreement is only good for one year. The town and county have yet to finalize future arrangements - whether the county will take over town recreation or whether things will stay as they are.

"We haven't heard anything about that in a while," said Highlands Rec Committee member Commissioner Amy Patterson.

Highlands Rec Committee News

At the Tuesday, Jan. 15 Highlands Recreation Committee meeting, members deliberated over new fitness equipment and a new commercial-grade rug for the fitness center areas downstairs at the Rec Park.

The town has \$50,000 budgeted for the new equipment and redo.

The committee decided to go with a line of equipment from Matrix which will replace all the current machines and include an "all-in-one" machine and possibly an elliptical.

The welds and static parts have a 10-year warranty; the moveable parts have a 5-year warranty.

Once the machines are ordered, the old ones will be removed, the new carpet will be laid and it's likely walls will be painted at the same time.

• FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

Town Board to begin attends county commission meeting

The long battle with the Riverwalk developers is over. Much to our disappointment in September Judge Beecher Gray would not support our fine of \$400,000 for the worst erosion problem we have ever seen in Highlands, and the Town Board had to decide whether to appeal or not.



Mayor Don Mullen

Engineering on the progress of the utility pole study. This process has been much slower than we had anticipated but we are learning from it. There are some pole violations which need immediate attention. That they are "life-threatening" as reported by McGavran is questionable but they still need to be corrected and will. That is

the purpose of the study and our public works and GIS departments are working very closely with the McGavran group to insure the public that we have a safe and well functioning system that is fully paid for by the users of these poles.

We had acted with small fines a little over a year ago initially but were ignored. We had a disaster on our hands in spite of attempts to remedy the situation. With the mountain washing away into the Cullasaja River and on into Mirror Lake and beyond it was necessary for the town to make a bold step and levy a very large fine. That is what got their attention. The state also stepped in and demanded correction of some of the damage and outside engineers were called in to evaluate the situation and offer advice. From that point on the situation began to improve and it now looks good.

Would we do it any differently the next time? You're darned right we would. We have learned a lot the hard way, and I can assure the public that this will never happen again. The Town Board had the choice as to whether to appeal the judge's decision or not. In view of the fact that the town would get none of any money from this. . . it would go to the state. . . and the cost of continuing the process would not only be very expensive but the chance of winning was 50-50 at best, we elected to go no further. It would be a waste of taxpayers' money. We could possibly have negotiated a much smaller fine but that would hardly pay for the legal fees and the time necessary to achieve this.

We achieved our goal of straightening a horrible situation out eventually and learned a great deal on how we will handle a similar situation in the future. The Riverwalk development looks good now and we can move on with appropriate building in that area with little further impact on the river or the community. We expect the Riverwalk developers to become good stewards of the land and contribute to the further development of Highlands in positive ways. One way would be a significant donation from Riverwalk to either the Land Trust or the Mirror Lake Association, both non-profits who work on preserving and protecting our mountains.

Last week at the town board meeting we also heard from McGavran

We were glad to see the new county manager, Mr. Jack Horton, visit Town Hall this past week to introduce himself and get to know us a little better. It appears that our recreation money will soon be forthcoming. It bodes well for future county and town relationships as we enter this new era with a new manager. We, too, look for better cooperation with the county as members of the town board will be making more trips to the County Commissioners meetings in the future. Let us hope we can begin to solve some of our mutual problems with trust and cooperation.

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County employees commended for years of service



At the Monday, Jan. 14, Macon County Commission meeting, the board presented employees who have worked for the county 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years with plaques and words of appreciation. Commended for 10 years of service were David Enloe, Stacey Jenkins, Kathy Kuhlman, Delena Ruby, Paul Ramey, Robert Randall, Robert Bruner, Todd Seagle and Michelle Tallent. Commissioner Ronnie Beale presented the awards.



Commissioner Jim Davis stands with employees who have been with the county for 15 years: Warren Cabe, Cynthia Keener, David Key, Brian Leopard, Marie McClure, Wesley Peek, Sandy Preston, Revena Shuler and Cathy Makinson.



Commissioner Ronnie Beale stands with employees who have been with the county 20 years: Mike Breedlove, Shelia Jenkins, Beth Nicholson, Mike Trammel and Kenneth Webb.

Photos by Kim Lewicki

• CONSERVATIVE POV •

Big brother is moving in

Well, darned near. According to the American Thinker, California has proposed legislation that would require "every new home and every change to existing homes' central heating and air conditioning systems to be fitted with a "programmable communicating thermostat" beginning next year following the issuance of the revision. Each PCT will be fitted with a non-removable FM receiver that will allow the power authorities to increase your air-conditioning setpoint or decrease your heater temperature setpoint to any value they choose.

"In other words, the temperature of your home will no longer be yours to control. Your desires and needs can and will be overridden by the state of California through its public and private utility organizations." If they can do it there, it can be done here.

If that isn't enough intrusion into your life to suit you, how about the Federal Government controlling your rain gutters. WHAT! Let me make you familiar with H. R. 2421. From Congresspedia, "The measure amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify the jurisdiction to unambiguously extend all waters in the U. S., it replaces the existing term 'navigable waters' with 'waters

of the United States,' which means 'all waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide, the territorial seas, and all interstate and intrastate waters and their tributaries, including lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes (?), natural ponds and all impoundments of the foregoing, to the fullest extent that these waters, or activities affecting these waters, are subject to the legislative power of Congress under the Constitution."

Enough of Big Brother already. Come to think of it, this is about BB in a way. Regarding President Bush's trip to the Middle East in an effort to achieve world peace in his political lifetime, a few weeks ago we wrote that the Annapolis peace summit would unravel in short order, and it has, even sooner than we thought. I wish Bush Godspeed in his efforts but it isn't going to happen in any lasting way.

From the beginning of recorded history to prophesy of the end times, these folks just ain't going to get along.



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

We have seen enough instances where religion, politics and culture get entangled to know the unscrambling the various agendas

to everyone's satisfaction becomes beyond man's reach. Disagreement has become a way of life, and many of the combatants aren't really sure how the battle they're involved in got started.

I promised myself no more of Britney, Lindsay, etc. this year, but I just can't keep it. It's too good. I don't know what it is about January, but these women (girls) just can't behave. Ms. Lohan, after being in and out of rehab in 2007 like most women go grocery shopping, went to Italy for New Year's and fell off the wagon, drinking champagne out of the bottle. Her resolve is as bad as mine.

And then there is Britney. On Thursday, Jan. 3, she showed up for an already-put-off-deposition 90 minutes late, gave the lawyers 15 minutes of her extremely valuable time, and split. On Friday, hubby (are they still married?) Kevin's bodyguard went to her house to pick up one or two of the kids. She locked herself in the john, and hours later was carted off to the hospital, held on a "5150," in which she was deemed to be a danger to herself or mankind. She was supposed to stay 72 hours, but the next day she's on her way out as Dr. Phil was on his way in. They chat and she bugs out to Mexico with a photographer to party the night away. I almost felt sorry for her, but I got over it.

In the political realm, the outcomes in New Hampshire created an even more confused picture. Both Hillary and McCain got a bump nationally off their wins there but there is nothing clear about the picture. The Dem's race tightened and I don't know who has the momentum. Hillary is the only one on the ballot in Michigan, so there is no contest there.

On the Republican side, McCain has risen from the ashes to become a serious contender. Huckabee continues to run on fumes and run well. The pundits say Romney has to win Michigan or he's through. I disagree. You will know how he does when you read this. I still think Giuliani's late-start strategy won't work and Thompson started too late to be taken seriously. The Republican candidate may be decided by a brokered convention.

NC waters threatened by move in Rabun County at old FOTL plant

By Sally Hansen
Reporter

Little Tennessee Watershed Association (LTWA) executive director Jenny Sanders spoke at January's "Lunch with the League" meeting last Thursday about a potential problem in Rabun County, GA, that could affect the water quality of Macon County.

With the ongoing drought in the southeast, Sanders said it is extremely important that legislators move to protect North Carolina's water resources.

There has been concern about what would become of the old Rabun Mills plant since Rabun County's Fruit of the Loom (FOTL) plant was put up for sale in July of 2006. Gibbs International bought the facility at auction and then sold the power plant at the facility to Multitrade Rabun Gap, LLC, last fall.

The water intake and wastewater treatment capacity of the plant were subsequently purchased by the Rabun County government in December of 2007.

The FOTL plant had an industrial water intake permit of 3.1 million gallons a day and a 2.5 million gallon a day discharge permit. The difference was lost to evaporation and steam. The plant took in water from the Little Tennessee Watershed and used it in its industrial operations, and then after treatment the remaining water was returned to the river.

Now the LTWA is concerned that the existing permit will simply be transferred to the new owners, which would allow them to continue using up to 3.1 million gallons of water a day.

While it is uncertain what Rabun County will do with the plant, wastewater treatment has been discussed. Use of the FOTL plant would be good for the economy since it would create more jobs, but it is important to note that the plant was cited for violations concerning the water intake and discharge for the five of the last 12 quarters that it was in operation.

Currently, the North Carolina Division of Water Quality has listed the portion of the Little Tennessee River that is near the old FOTL plant as impaired, which means that it is not meeting its designated use as a proper habitat for several species that live there.

According to Sanders, in 2003 scientists from Virginia Tech and the University of Georgia found highly elevated levels of chlorine and sodium in the river starting just beyond plant and continuing for up to 30 km downstream.

With larger cities like Atlanta experiencing water shortages due to the drought, the concern of interbasin transfers has also prompted the LTWA to investigate proposed uses for the old FOTL plant.

According to Sanders, interbasin transfer is the "process of permanently removing water from one river basin and moving

it to another river basin." This can be problematic for both the receiving river basin and the losing river basin not only because of the volume of water being lost or increased, but also due to potential contaminants or other non-indigenous substances being introduced into a fragile habitat.

"If we move water from one area to another without monitoring it, we don't know what effects it will have," Sanders said. "Interbasin transfers are a problem even when they help solve potential crises like Atlanta running out of water."

Sanders said that there are 3.5 million gallons a day available to citizens in Rabun County. The county currently uses 1.5 million gallons a day, and 50% of this total is lost to leaking distribution pipes.

The LTWA is concerned that any excess water could be sold to communities like Atlanta who are experiencing water shortages. The LTWA has requested that the Georgia Environmental Protection Division not allow interbasin transfers, but Sanders said that there is already a transfer from the city of Clayton to provide water to the people in Rabun Gap.

This water comes from the Chattooga River Basin and is treated in Dillard and discharged into the Little Tennessee River. "Interbasin transfers happen all the time, and I don't know of any laws in Georgia that prohibit them," Sanders said.

North Carolina does have some interbasin transfer laws, but they only regulate the transfer of large amounts of water. Smaller rivers and interbasin transfers concerning them are not protected by this legislation, and Sanders said "It would be great if the permit system would apply to all interbasin transfers." She said that Tennessee has a similar law, and it has proven to be successful.

As far as the FOTL plant is concerned, the LTWA has requested that a new permit be issued based on the new industry that will come into the plant, instead of simply transferring the old permits to the new owners. While this is a longer and more expensive process, it is essential in monitoring water quality, water quantity, habitat integrity, and economic development.

Sanders also said that Habersham County had been approached by Atlanta about purchasing surplus water, and a pipeline is being planned to send water south to Atlanta. "Habersham County is one county away from Rabun," Sanders said.

To protect North Carolina's water quality and ecosystems, the LTWA has contacted several organizations, including the US Environmental Protection Agency, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the NC Division of Water Quality to keep them informed and ask them to help.

"We have also sent information to our

• See NC WATERS page 15

Stop I-3 Coalition reaffirms position

The Stop I-3 Coalition today reaffirmed its firm opposition to a new interstate highway from Savannah, Georgia, to Oak Ridge, Tennessee, "or any similar highway."

The coalition's board reaffirmed its stand in reaction to news reports that Rep. Paul Broun was considering a technical correction to legislative language, suggesting that one possible route for the controversial highway might go through Greenville or Clinton, S.C., on its way from Augusta, Georgia, to its endpoint.

"With or without the technical correction, we are opposed to this interstate,

which we believe is unneeded and unnecessary," said Holly Demuth, the coalition's executive director.

Broun, who won a close election to replace the late Rep. Charlie Norwood, previously had promised to sponsor legislation that would defund the federal study of I-3.

"A clear majority of Georgia residents view this unnecessary highway as fiscally irresponsible, and environmentally disastrous," concluded Lucy Bartlett, the coalition's president. For further details, see www.stopI-3.org.

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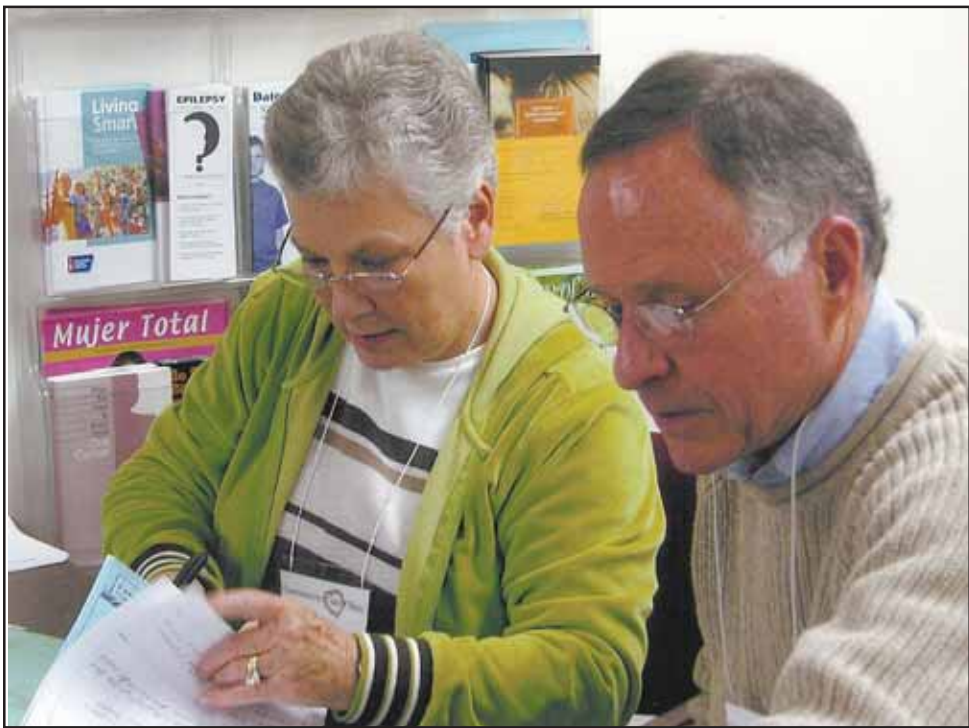
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Betty and Don Fisher volunteer at the Community Care Clinic at Zachary Park on Buck Creek Road.

Who is Aunt Dora?

In his inaugural address, President John F. Kennedy told the nation, "Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country." Nearly 50 years later, residents of the Highlands-Cashiers area still live by those words. Volunteerism continues to grow in Western North Carolina, as exemplified by the many fine organizations that lend a hand to the needy. Indeed, in small communities that receive little government help, the people have always found that they must help each other; in doing so, they help themselves.

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

In addition to the doctors and nurses who staff the clinic, two volunteers per week are needed on the front desk to register patients, check eligibility, and put people at ease. Sally Blank of Sapphire, the volunteer coordinator of the non-professionals at CCC, says of this job, "These volunteers need to be people oriented. We will train them in all applicable topics affecting their volunteer work."

Two of the special people who do this work are Don and Betty Fisher. Originally from this area, the Fishers lived elsewhere for 40 years before returning to Highlands six years ago. They now live near the Clinic on property that once belonged to Betty's great grandfather, Lyman Zachary.

The reason for their volunteering is

unique – the clinic is located on Betty's family's old homeplace. The hours they spend there each week are in memory of her grandmother, who was known to all as "Aunt Dora." Aunt Dora was well regarded as a "true care giver," a compassionate soul who would walk miles to come to the aid of a sick friend. Don and Betty honor her memory by following her example. How fitting that a clinic providing medical care for those in need should be located on a street that bears the name "Aunt Dora Drive!"

The Clinic can always use more volunteers, including translators. If you are interested in volunteering for this special place or would like more information, please call Jerry Hermanson, Director, 526-1991.

CPR courses at MC Health Center

**Register and pre-pay
before Feb. 5**


An American Red Cross Adult CPR with AED and Infant/Child CPR course will be sponsored by the Macon County Public Health Center.

The course will be held on Thursday, February 7th from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the Macon County Public Health Center at 1830 Lakeside Drive.

Participants must pre-register and pre-pay at the Macon County Public Health Center before Tuesday, February 5.

For more information, please call Jennifer at 349-2439.

• ART GALLERIES •



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Whether man-made or nature-sent, the slopes in Highlands and Cashiers are ready for various snow sports.



Photo by Jim Lewicki

... LANDFILL continued from page 1

a 60-day turnaround. "The LGC meets the first Tuesday of each month, so we're cutting it close," said Finance Director Evelyn Southard.

The snag came when the county requested Highlands to pay for the municipal solid waste transfer station – since Highlands is the only entity who needs and uses it. Initially, the Town Board didn't want to pay to build the transfer station, but now the board is open to negotiation and has actually budgeted \$475,000.

The big question is how much it will cost the county and how much it would cost the town to haul municipal waste down the mountain to the Franklin landfill – the only place anything can now be dumped whether it's construction debris or household garbage. That's where the negotiation will come in.

The county has always hauled household garbage from the convenience centers to the landfill in Franklin, but hauling the town's garbage – the garbage it picks up in its garbage trucks – down the mountain is a new component to the scenario.

"Transfer costs are a lot of the department's operating costs," said Stahl. "We pay J&B Disposal \$150 a pull now, but we will be require 2 1/2 times more pulls than normal."

Stahl said it's likely his department – a self-sufficient enterprise fund – will seek a transfer fee to cover the cost of transferring garbage down the mountain. "We'll have to add the fee on top of the tipping fee of users," he said. "You'll have to pay to get waste to the disposal site, or users can take it down the mountain to Franklin. This department has no access to ad valorem tax money. Tipping fees and selling recyclables is the only way to generate revenue."

Stahl says the county hasn't been charging tipping fees on household waste even though it's 60% of his department's waste volume.

But everything is changing. The state has mandated changes at the land fill on Rich Gap at a time when development and growth in general is on the rise.

"Due to the increase traffic in Highlands due to growth, we need a second set of scales for outbound traffic at the site and

we need to improve the convenience centers," said Stahl. "Our costs are going to go up."

The state recently added a \$2 tipping fee increase per ton which will have to be passed on to the consumer.

Stahl asked the commission to approve the project and award the contract to the lowest bidder contingent upon LGC financing and signing of the inter-local agreement between Macon County and Highlands. "That way we can move forward without finalizing the project," he said. Commissioners agreed.

The lowest of six bidders was Perry Bartsch Jr. Construction at \$778,287.96. The highest bidder was Stillwell Enterprises of Sylva for \$1,194,955.

Stahl said it may cost Highlands less than anticipated perhaps between \$400,000 and \$425,000.

"Constructing the MSW transfer station is beneficial to Highlands when you consider fuel costs," said Stahl. "We will continue to pick up household waste from the convenience centers. But the difference will be the cost of transporting the community's waste – both the town's garbage and the C&D down the mountain."

Stahl said prices will go up with tipping and transfer fee costs – which represent the department's operating costs – divided between everyone's tonnage.

Commission Chairman Charlie Leatherman said if the county doesn't move on this now, it will find itself in a bad situation. "Prices are just going to go up," he said.

Stahl said he's sure an agreement can be reached to satisfy both entities. "We need to decide what will satisfy both sides. The town has requested off-hour usage, and I don't see a problem with that. We need to agree to operate the transfer stations for a number of years and the town needs to agree to bring its trash for a number of years. There are a number of items that will satisfy both parties with mutually beneficial status," he said.

The board hopes to hammer out an inter-local agreement with Highlands at a work session January 27 at 2 p.m. in the boardroom at the county courthouse.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



**Pastor Todd Struble with daughter Nicole
Highlands United Methodist Church**

The painful human condition that is 'divorce'

You may notice that the picture included with this column is different from the norm. Included in the picture is my daughter, Nicole. I was granted primary custody of Nicole today. The experience is bittersweet, with joy and sorrow bumping into one another. I want to share with you a few words of advice about divorce and custody issues.

Divorce is so prevalent in our society today, but it is seldom discussed. When divorce is the topic of conversation, it is rarely discussed in a meaningful and honest way. The brunt of many jokes, not to mention great fodder for country music hits – such as Tammy Wynette's memorable "D-I-V-O-R-C-E" and George Strait's "All My Ex's Live in Texas" – divorce is treated almost as a comical malady.

As someone who has gone through a divorce, I can assure you that it is no joking matter. It puts spouses through a crucible in which there are no real winners. When children are involved, it is a heart-breaking, gut-wrenching ordeal. The first time I saw the movie "Bye Bye Love," I enjoyed it for its comedic value. Watching three men: Donny (Paul Reiser), Dave (Matthew Modine), and Vic (Randy Quaid) deal with the circumstances of joint custody and trying to start life over again was somewhat humorous. That was back in 1995...before my divorce. The movie was on television recently and I couldn't watch more than thirty minutes of it. Shuttling children back-and-forth for weekend visitation is anything but funny to me.

The divorce rate for Christians is roughly the same as it is for the general population. You can do some research and find some poll that refutes this, but based on what I see and observe as a pastor, I'd have to agree that Christians divorce at about the same rate as non-Christians. And when it comes to pastors, there are even some studies floating around that state that Christian ministers experience divorce at nearly the same rate as all Christians.

•See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 20

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, Georgia
The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbeling, Pastor
Church: 706-746-2999
Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770

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

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

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

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rev. Cass Daly • Office – 526-2320
Sunday: Holy Communion – 11 a.m.
(Highlands Community Center on. U.S. 64 next to the
ballfield in Highlands

Monday: Evening Bible Study at 6 p.m.
Wednesday: Men's Bible study at 8 a.m.
at First Baptist Church

Pot Luck Lunch last Sunday of each month.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Everett Brewer
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Prayer – 6:30 p.m.

Evening Service – 1st & 3rd Sunday – 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 Worship;
6:30 p.m. High School Group

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Rev. Brian Sullivan – Rector: 526-2968
Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School
10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

Sunday Service on Channel 14 at 10:30 A.M.

Monday: 4 P.M. Women's Cursillo Group

Tuesday: 8 A.M. Men's Cursillo Group

4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry

Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice

Thursday: 10 A.M. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

10:30 A.M. Daughters of the King

• Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.

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Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by childrens
Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Jr & Sr Youth Group 6:30 p.m.;
Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

Small groups available throughout the week.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153
Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; School – 9:30
a.m.; Youth – 6:30 p.m.; Choir – 7:15
Wednesdays: Dinner – 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids – 6 p.m.;
Prayer – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Mark Kayser, Interim Pastor
Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175
Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun.School – 9:30 & 9:45.
Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men's Bible Discussion & Breakfast
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – Seekers
Choir – 7

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study
Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Senior Pastor Todd Struble; Asst. Pastor Mike Harris
526-3376

Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.;
5 p.m. Youth Group

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

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

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

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741
Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30
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Choir – 6 p.m.

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

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SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis
Sundays: School –10 a.m.; Worship –11 a.m. & 7
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.;
Evening Worship – 6 p.m.

Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.

For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Wayne Price
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

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Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
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Red Cross needs 3 blood types now

Two weeks into the new year, the American Red Cross faces a severe shortage of several blood types. Locally, supplies of type O negative, B negative and A negative blood are at less than a day's supply despite repeated calls to donors to give blood over the past month.

The Red Cross is asking blood donors to donate immediately to prevent supply levels from dropping even further in the coming days and weeks.

"It is important to note that coming off of a major holiday period, the need for blood never takes a holiday," says Robert F. Fechner, chief executive officer of the American Red Cross Carolinas Blood Services Region. "In addition to the holiday challenges, during the winter, donations drop and the supply of blood often dips to dangerously low levels."

While all blood types are needed, the

low supply of type O blood is of particular concern. Type O is the most commonly used blood type. O negative blood can be used for all patients, but it is often essential to the treatment of trauma patients, newborns and women who are pregnant.

Angel Medical Center is sponsoring an American Red Cross blood drive on Friday, January 18 from 10:30 am to 3 p.m. The hospital is located at 120 Riverview Street in Franklin, NC. Please call 369-4166 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Donors are asked to visit www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (448-3543). The Carolinas Blood Services Region needs 1,600 blood donations a day in order to adequately supply the 103 hospitals it serves. Donors must be age 17 or older and weigh at least 110 pounds.

RBC Centura sponsors 'Tribute to teachers'

One of the many things that are GIANT to RBC Centura is a commitment to leadership and overall excellence. That's why it is honoring leaders in the community that do GIANT things every day: Teachers — those outstanding individuals dedicated to enriching students and supplying them with the tools to help build a better future for all of us.

Anyone can nominate a deserving teacher from the Highlands community by clicking on the big pencil on the home page of the RBC Centura website. Several years ago Highlands School Great Beginnings teacher Jane Chalker won \$500 classroom cash for her class. "I would love to see a deserving Highlands teacher win again," said Sue Gorski, manager of the Highlands RBC Centura bank.

Nominate an elementary or middle school teacher in your community by telling why your teacher (or your children's) teacher is a leader in the classroom and in

the community. RBC Centura wants to reward these teachers for their outstanding leadership. RBC Centura teams in the Southeast region will determine a total of 35 winners based on these nominations for community contribution with demonstrated commitment to educational excellence and enrichment.

The nomination period is Dec. 1, 2007 through March 16, 2008 and each winner will be awarded \$500 "Classroom Cash" to be used on learning tools for their classrooms. One grand prize winner will receive a \$2,000 shopping spree at Stone's Education Superstore in Raleigh, NC (travel included).

At the conclusion of the program, RBC Centura's website will salute and congratulate the winning teachers.

Click www.rbccentura.com for more information and to make a nomination to the "Tribute To Teachers" program.

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.

Services are by appointment and include immunizations, WIC certifications, lab tests, family planning visits, and routine physicals.

Call 349-2081 for an appointment or for more information.

... WATERS continued from page 11

county commissioners, congressman Keith Shuler and state senator John Snow," Sanders said. A public meeting was also held in Georgia to urge citizens to become involved in protecting their water resources.

Sanders also urged Macon County citizens to get involved. "Write, call and visit

your representatives to request interbasin transfer legislation and an interstate agreement to protect the Little Tennessee," she said. Sanders encouraged the conservation of water, and directed the audience to visit <http://www.ltwa.org> for water conservation tips and ideas.

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• HIGHLANDS EATERIES •

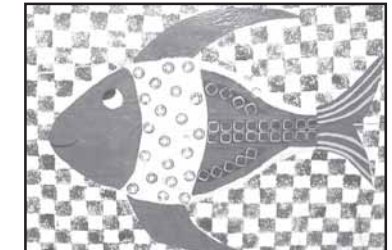
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HELP WANTED

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 courtesy officer. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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

RETAIL/ OFFICE SPACE - 800 - 3,000 Sq Ft. Located in Highlands Plaza. Entrances on Hwy. 28 & 106. Great Visibility. High Traffic. Abundant Parking. Reasonable Terms. Best location in town. Call 864-630-0808 for info.

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

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

ON MIRROR LAKE - Charming 3 bed, 2 bath. Huge sunroom, stone 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. 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

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

UPPER CLEAR CREEK ROAD AT CORNET LANE 1.20+ acres less than 4 miles to Main Street. Paved Access. Some winter views 3 sided corner lot has old 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/elevator: 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 for more information or visit our website at www.sanctuarync.com/farm_for_sale6.ht

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.

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

LOTS - Exclusive RiverRock, Tuckasegee

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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

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

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

ITEMS FOR SALE

RAZOR DIRT ROCKET MX350 DIRT BIKE. \$150.00. Call 526-9107.

THREE "HOUSE OF DENMARK"

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

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

ANTIQUÉ 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.

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.

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

BEAMS, FLOORING AND ENTIRE STRUCTURES: HAND HEWN BEAMS. Beauti-

ful 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.

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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, cook. Call Donny. 706-335-6496 or write P.O. Box 411, Ila, GA 30647. 1/24/08

LOST

LOST DOG IN BUCK CREEK/SHORTOFF 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!



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Any Ice Cream
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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going

- Cardio Dance Class. \$5 per calls, MWF at 8:30 am @ the Rec Park (downstairs).
- Yoga at the Rec Park, 7:30 a.m Monday and Wednesdays. Call 526-4340 for information.
- Yoga in the bottom floor of Jane Woodruff Building. 10:30 a.m. Thursdays. Call 526-4340.
- NA open meeting every Saturday at 7:30 p.m. of the ACC Satellite Group at the Graves Community Church, 242 Hwy 107 N. in Cashiers. Call 888-764-0365 or go to the website: www.ncmana.org.
- Step Aerobics at the Rec Park, 4-5 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays. \$5 per class.
- At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.
- "The Circle of Life" support group continues at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital at the Jane Woodward room 201, 10 a.m. until noon. Call Barbara Buchanan at 526-1402 or Florence Flanagan at 743-2567.

First Mondays

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

Every Monday

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

Every Tuesday

- Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Center.
- Weight Watchers meets at the Highlands

Ruby Cinemas

Hwy. 441, Franklin • 524-2076

Jan. 18-24

CLOVERFIELD rated PG-13

Fri: (4:20), 7:15, 9:20

Sat & Sun: (2:15), (4:20), 7:15, 9:20

Mon – Thurs: (4:20), 7:15

MAD MONEY rated PG-13

Fri: 7, 9:05

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

Mon – Thurs: (4:15), 7:05

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: (4:15)

Sat & Sun: (2:05)

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

Big winners at Bingo



At the Rotary Club of Highlands Bingo night on Thursday, Jan. 10, Tony and Terri Potts and their nephew Carter Potts enjoyed the fun and family atmosphere. Terri was the SUPER JACKPOT winner and took home a cash prize of \$250. The next Rotary Bingo night is Thursday, Feb. 7. Come with your family and friends, have a good time and if you are lucky take home a cash prize.

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 meets in the Fellowship Hall..

- 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. 17

- Half-Price Sale at Jackson County Main Library, 536 West Main Street, Sylva from 4-8 p.m.

- "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

- The Highlands Memorial Post 370 of the American Legion will meet at the Highlands Civic Center. There will be a pancake breakfast at 9 a.m. followed by the meeting. All members and eligible veterans are cordially invited to come and enjoy breakfast and support the organization that supports you. For information call Ed Jones. 742-0986.

- 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.

- Pianist Bruce Murray will present a recital at the Porter Center at Brevard College on Sunday at 3 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public. Murray will perform "The Well-Tempered Clavier," Book I, by Johann Sebastian Bach. "The Well-Tempered Clavier" is considered to be a landmark of classical music. Complete performances are rare, owing to the length and difficulty of the work, which consists of twenty-four preludes and fugues in all the major and minor keys.

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.

Wednesday, Jan. 23

- High Mountain Squares will dance Wednesday night at the Macon County Community Building from 7-9 p.m. This will be the 3/4 Dance for our new dancers. Jim Roper from Cornelia GA. will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344, 706-782-0943, or www.highmountainsquares.org

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.

Monday, Jan. 28

- The Art League of Highlands' monthly meeting noon at the Rec Park. Open forum and discussion to follow lunch. For more information, call Carole Cook at 526-2742.

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 summa-

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

ry 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 'January 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

• i9ngo at the Highlands Community Center next to the ballfield, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Super Fives -- full card bingo -- five down, five across in 55 number calls or less. Pays \$500.

• 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 more information, please contact Creighton Peden 526-4038. SNOW DAY; or "Taking Science on Faith" by Paul Davies. New York Times, Nov. 24, 2007. Coordinator: Creighton Peden.

Fun starts at ITC Feb. 1

Jillian Burfete, director of ITC LIVE! opening Friday, February 1, will also be performing with the troupe. While completing her last year at Western Carolina University she appeared with the Instant Theatre Company throughout the 2006 season, and immediately gained an audience following for her hilarious improvisational characters in Little Entertainments and Cocktail Hour Theatre. One of the audience favorites was her re-occurring, quirky, "Donkey Rider." Later in the season audience members were tipping back in their chairs with laughter at her canine antics as "Sylvia", the dog who almost breaks up a marriage, in A.R. Gurney's acclaimed comedy.



Jillian Burfete

After graduating from WCU she traveled to Chicago to study with the two leading improvisational companies in the United States, Second City and I.O. (Improv Olympic). Fortunately for the ITC, she has returned to the company on her winter break from the Mecca of improv to teach the ITC troupe the "long form" improvisation she has been studying.

Outside of cities like Chicago, New York and San Francisco "long form" improv is virtually unknown. Highlands's audiences who have attended the ITC's Evenings of Little Entertainments, Little Entertainments, and Cocktail Hour Theatre are familiar with "short form" improv which was performed in both 2005 and 2006 at the Studio.

The "short form" focuses on a loose

system of simple rules and applies them to fun, imaginative games. There is scene work within the "short form"

games but just the very basics of learning to think quickly, gain confidence and being part of a team are explored. The "long form" however is more complex.

As Jillian explains it, "While understanding the rules is very necessary the "long form" is most interested in exploring and developing the relationships of the characters within the scene to produce something beautiful and fluid that, to many, seems to have

been written in advance. I usually compare it to a kind of made-up-on-the-spot three act play that develops from a simple audience suggestion. If all goes according to plan, characters are developed, explored and interwoven into a sometimes touching, often hilarious, romp of fun." ITC LIVE! will perform "long form" in Act I and "short form" in Act II.

ITC LIVE! will play Friday and Saturday every weekend in February at 8 p.m. in the ITC's Studio on Main at 310 Oak Square, Main Street, Highlands. For reservations please call the box office at 828-342-9197. Eight performances only.

Following the last performance of ITC LIVE! on February 23 Jillian returns to the Windy City to continue her improvisation studies and graduate to become a member of a performance troupe. ITC LIVE! will not be held over.

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... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 14

The phrase "divorced pastor" is an oxymoron to most people. Pastors are expected to lead by example and being divorced does not set a good example in the minds of most people, especially Christians. This line of thinking is not without warrant. In a letter written by Paul to a young, aspiring pastor named Timothy, the apostle says that bishops

and deacons should be "the husband of one wife" (I Timothy 3:2,12). Paul writes that leaders of a congregation must manage their own households well. Why? Paul answers with a rhetorical question: "If a man does not know how to manage his own household, how can he care for God's church?" (v.5).

Ouch! That's a tough verse for me to handle. I do not know of a single denomination or church that does not interpret verse with the utmost respect and sincerity. A number of denominations do not make provisions for divorced pastors; meaning, a divorced person cannot serve as a pastor, preacher, or priest. The United Methodist Church does allow for a called, approved, and tested candidate

for ordained ministry to begin or continue his or her ordained ministry if divorced, but not without proper and strenuous counsel. In the Western North Carolina Conference (in which I serve), there is a lengthy book with very detailed procedures, which a pastor contemplating divorce must follow. It might interest you to know that the Greek Orthodox Church does have a

•See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 23

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• COUNTRY CLUB NEWS •

HFCC celebrates New Year's Eve



Highlands Falls Country Club rang in the New Year with over 130 of their local and seasonal members at the Club on New Year's Eve. More than half of those in attendance drove up from their winter locations just to attend what has been deemed the "First Annual HFCC New Year's Eve Celebration"! Plans are already in place for next year's event which will be catered by the Club's own Chef Potter. Food for this year's festivities was provided by Debbie Grossman and her staff at Fressers.

Highlands Country Club recognized for 'Environmental Excellence'

Highlands Country Club has retained its designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, an Audubon International program. Brian J. Stiehler, Superintendent, and Rickey Holland, Wildlife Manager, led the effort to maintain sanctuary status on this course and are being recognized for Environmental Stewardship by Audubon International. Highlands Country Club was designated as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in 2003 and is one of 624 courses in the world to receive this honor.

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, endorsed by the United States Golf Association, provides information and guidance to help golf courses preserve and enhance wildlife habitat, and protect natural resources. Golf courses from the United States, Africa, Australia, Canada, Central America, Europe, Mexico, and Southeast Asia have achieved certifications in the program.

"Highlands Country Club has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program. They are to be commended for their efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property," said Jim Sluiter, Staff Ecologist for the Audubon Sanctuary Programs.

"To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a

number of areas," explained Sluiter. These categories include: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Outreach and Education, Chemical Use Reduction and Safety, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management. Courses go through a recertification process every two years. For more information on golf and the environment, visit www.golfandenvironment.org.

Audubon International is a not-for-profit, environmental education organization dedicated to educating, assisting, and

inspiring millions of people from all walks of life to protect and sustain the land, water, wildlife, and natural resources around them. Its award-winning education and certification programs, has helped more than 5,800 businesses, golf courses, schools, communities, and new developments improve environmental performance and manage natural resources responsibly on more than one million acres of land.

For more information, contact Audubon International at www.auduboninternational.org.

... SALZARULO continued from page 5

hand. Lizzie followed him in for napkins, which in other McDonalds are included without asking. His order was wrong, and cold. His wife later told us that the girl in the window tried to give them our order. They should have accepted. Dale, our friend, explained in detail, the fabrication of a sausage McMuffin with egg, although it is a standard menu item and sounds self-explanatory. We'll do anything for our kids.

Lizzie got our napkins. Dale, Judith, and Jeanie got pretty much what they had ordered on the second attempt.

While Bull and I were waiting for Lizzie, a tour bus pulled into the lot. Ski-clothed Japanese tourists disembarked. Lizzie said that they didn't speak English. There were at least 50 of them, 50, non-English foreign tourists entering the slowest McDonalds in America.

We didn't have time to hang around and enjoy the scene, but the Japanese must have spent most of the morning in McDonalds, and left frustrated, but smugly confident that America poses no threat to the goal of Japanese world domination

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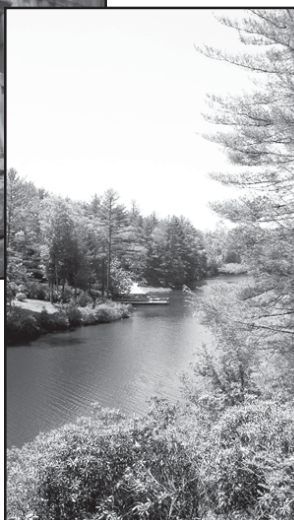
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... THANKS continued from page 2

ushered to a table in the gym. Debbie Grossman of Fressers coordinated all the food preparation.

The transformation of the physical space inside the walls of the gymnasium for this night is nothing short of inspiring. Long tables with enough chairs to seat 300 people are set with white cloths, flatware, napkins, shiny festive centerpieces and favors. But perhaps another kind of transformation takes place inside the hearts of the dozens of helpers as they watch entire families with members of all ages file in to be welcomed and seated and served. Perhaps that transformation involves seeing, really seeing, maybe for the first time, these mothers, fathers and children as individuals and not merely as a group of outsiders.

After a beautiful bi-lingual blessing by our Mayor "El Reverendo" Don Mullen, these guests go through the buffet line to fill their plates with spicy chicken ala Manuela, rice, beans, two salads, and tortillas. Hotdogs are there aplenty for the innumerable children. Volunteers serve everyone with soft drinks, home-made sugar cookies and Jackie Hill's chocolate brownies for dessert. Throughout the dinner raffle numbers are drawn for the amazing array of donated gifts filling two long tables. Two surprise features of the entertainment of the evening, after Don Long's delightful piano, were an enchanting dance group and a choir with guitar accompanying them, both from Franklin.

Of course, anytime you have lots of children together near Christmas, Santa Claus is always forefront in their thoughts. And sure enough, our ever-faithful, ever patient "Santa Buck" did not

let the 90 or so children down. He held each one on his knee and gave each one a present. An anonymous, generous local "real" Santa donates the funds to buy toys for every child up to age 16.

The thank you list begins with the co-chairs of the "Noche" Angels Patsy Mullen and Betty Fisher, who teamed up for the second year to create this highlight-of-the-year event in many people's lives. Other angels for this evening were: Chris Alley, Isabel Allen, Dixie Barton, Wilda Boyette, Kitty Byers, Jeanne Christie, Bruce Colville, Jackie Cravin, Mary Ann Creswell, Marie and Dennie Davis, Joy Dooley, Robert Durrance, Mozelle Edwards, Don Fisher, Tim Gibson, Carol and Travis Goodloe, Rosa Garcia, Debbie Grossman, Ann and Duncan Greenlee, Mary Guy Gunn, Russell and Jo Harris, Peter and Ellen Hartweiger, Luis Ramirez Hernandez, Jackie Hills, Paula and Barry Jones, Ginger Kennedy, Rebecca and David Landis, Barbara and Doug Landwehr, Don Long, Sara Mason, Jill Montana, David Moore, Faviola Olvera, Bobby O'Dell, Dorothy Porter, Joel Porter, Bev and Hillrie Quin, Rene and Jim Ramsdell, Darlene Scott, Dollie Swanson, Bob Tietze, Manuela Frias Tosca, "Buck" Trott, Highlands Lawn and Garden, Jolie's, Furniture South, Summer House, Sysco Foods, Highlands Country Club, Mountain Garden Club. God bless all of you.

If we have left out your name and you helped in any way, we apologize and want you to know we appreciate you.

Thank you for another memorable Family Night.

International Friendship Center
Highlands

Christmas dinner huge success

Thank you Highlands! The 6th Annual Highlands Christmas Dinner was a huge success! Over 375 of Highlanders and Visitors joined in the holiday feast raising over \$14,000 for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Highlands and The Literacy Council of Highlands. Thank You!

A special thanks to the Log Cabin for generously offering their beautiful restaurant as a venue for this great event. We could not have done it without the help and support of Margaret and Charlie!

Many thanks also go to JT, Glen, and Bruce of Mountain Fresh Grocery; Steve Tippet of US Foods; Jackie Craven of Sysco Foods; and Dan and Lisa of August Produce for their generous donations of food and supplies. The fine wines were a contribution from Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro. Also contributing labor and food were Fresser's Eatery; Blackberry Hill Bakery and Deli; and Lakeside Restaurant. Thank you National Linen Service for help with the table linens and Let Holly do the Cooking for the use of her kitchen. The

Little Flower Shoppe decorated the tables with fabulous flower arrangements and many thanks to Citizens Bank for their help with our banking needs. Thank you to all!

This event would never have been the success it was without the support of The Highlander; Highlands' Newspaper; The Laurel Magazine; and WHLC. Thank you for the GREAT publicity.

Helping to serve and seat were Lee Hodges, Gary Miller, Diane Barta, Donna Woods, Lisa Wilker, Farrel and Jan Zehr, Nancy and Bob Mills, Chris and Mark Flashner, Dawn Owens, Richard Taylor, Rick and Helene Siegel. Chefs were Debbie Grossman, Marty Rosenfield, Donna Woods, and Rene Ramsdell. Thank you!

Committee Members include Jan and Farrel Zehr; Marty Rosenfield and Donna Woods; Debbie Grossman; Nancy and Bob Mills; Chris and Mark Flashner; Jim and Rene Ramsdell; Richard Taylor; and Rick and Helene Siegel.

Thank You Everyone!

FIRE & RESCUE

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Jan 12-16

Jan. 12

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on 510 N. 5th St. The victim was transported to the hospital.

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

Jan. 13

- The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Laurel Lane. It was false.

Jan. 14

- The dept. responded to a two-vehicle accident on Billy Cabin Road. There were no injuries.

Jan. 15

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

Jan. 16

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Club House Trail. The victim was transported to the hospital.

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 20

provision for their priests to divorce, but they cannot remarry. That gets us into a whole other argument about remarriage as a form of perpetual adultery (Mark 10:11-12).

I am not proud of being a divorced pastor. The whole process of separation and divorce and custody issues is a humbling experience. Some people "celebrate" the court's decree of a divorce with a party. I even know of a pastor who hosted such a party, even invited church members to attend (he is no longer the pastor of a church). There are situations of abuse or infidelity, which may result in a celebratory sigh of relief, but, for the most part, divorce is painful and rarely cause for commemoration.

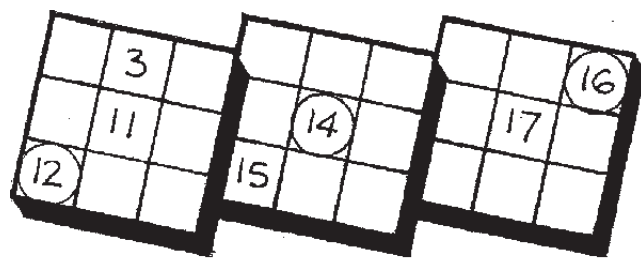
Though I am not proud of being divorced, I am more intentional about how I deal with couples going through struggles in the marriages. The ordeal I have gone through these past ten years has, if anything, made me more aware of the fragile nature of so many marriages. The majority of the time I spend in daily prayer is focused on intercessions for marriages. Even more than that, I pray most earnestly for the children of divorce.

I am thankful that I was able to find a wonderful life-partner and wife, Diane. We make a good team in being the parents of eight children. And I must admit that there is a slight lilt in my step these days since my daughter, Nicole, is now living with us. I do not take those steps for granted. I am going to treasure each day I have with my children.

Maybe that is the point I am trying to make in my ramblings here about divorce and custody issues: enjoy every moment you have with your children. Do not ever take them for granted. And if you and your spouse are going through a rough spot in your marriage, never underestimate the quick and easy slide our culture allows for being married one day and divorced the next. Seek the counsel of a pastor or qualified therapist. And, by all means, pray and have trusted friends and family pray with you and for you. God is there to help us in good times and bad. God loves us "for better, for worse." If only we could do the same.

• FUN & GAMES •

PseudoCube[©]



#DN4D - Level of Difficulty - Moderate

THE SETUP:

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

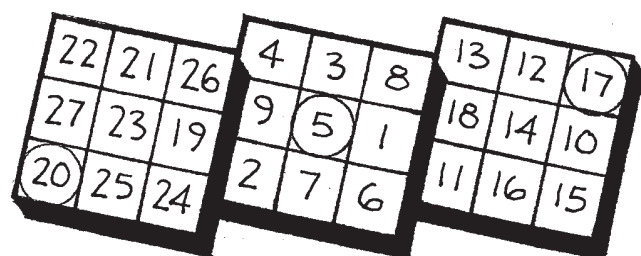
THE CHALLENGE:

Start with the three center numbers for each layer and the other numbers given. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other numbers belong. Good Luck!

The first correct solution emailed earns a coupon for a FREE cup of coffee from Buck's Coffee Cafe on Main Street.

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com

Solution to #BZ3C in Jan. 10 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.

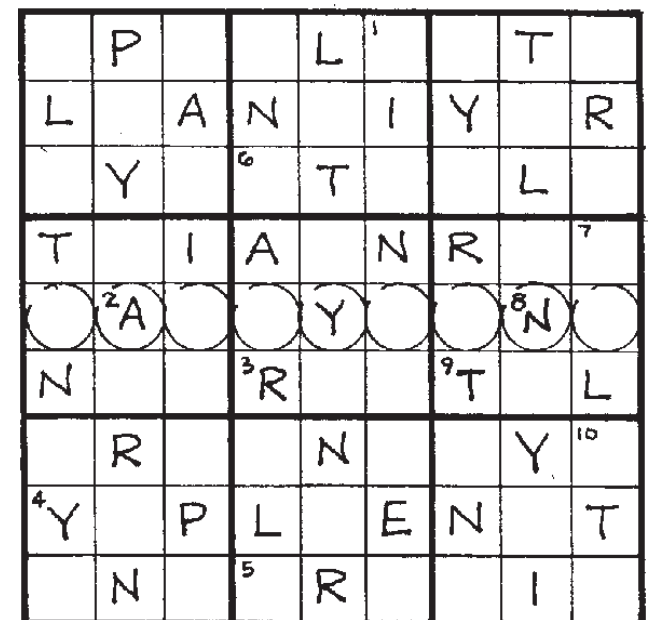
Mystery Word "Political Slogan"

ACROSS

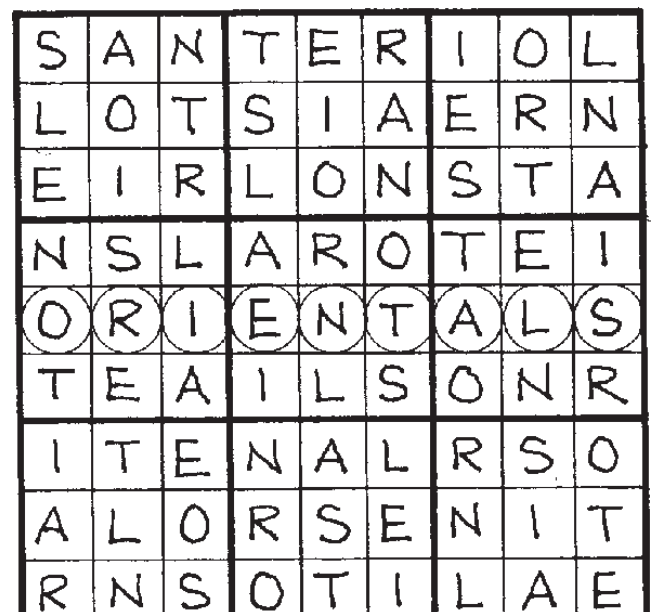
1. Noxious rodent (3)
2. Beautiful expression (3)
3. Tear (e.g. cloth) (3)
4. Dog bark (3)
5. Force open (3) (abb.) (3)

DOWN

6. Ingest (3)
7. Canine cry of pain (4)
8. Old English "No" (3)
9. Follows nine (3)
10. Parent Teachers Association (3)



Solution to Jan. 10 puzzle



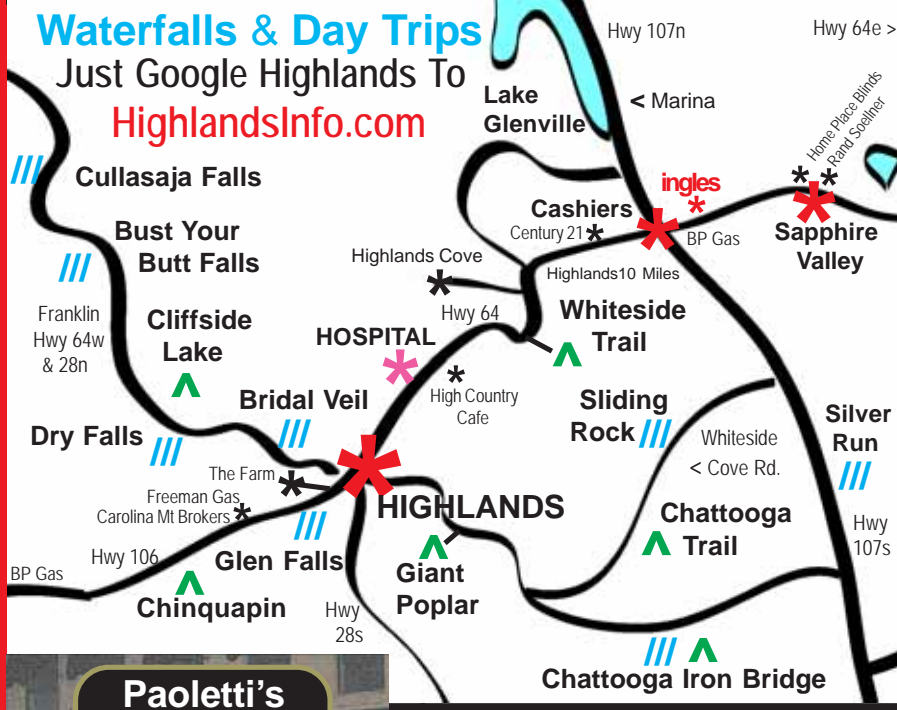
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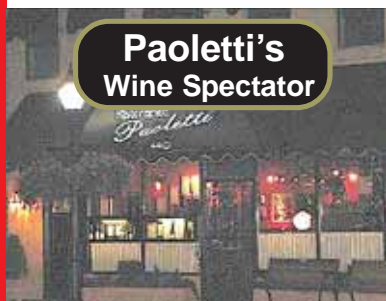


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A detailed street map of Highlands, North Carolina. The map shows streets such as Franklin Rd., W. Main St., Spring St., Church St., and Main St. Various businesses are marked with icons and labels, including restaurants, shops, and services. A legend at the bottom categorizes these businesses into Dining, Shopping, Real Estate, and Galleries.

DINING	Shopping	Real Estate
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3 Golden China	3 Bear Mt. Outfit.	3 Chambers
4 Log Cabin	4 Bungalow	4 Country Club
5 Madison's	5 Dry Sink	5 John Schiffl
6	6 JacksonMadeleine	6 Meadows Mtn.
7 Oak St Cafe	7 Raspberry Fizz	Galleries
8 Paoletti	8 Silver Eagle	1 Bryant Art Glass
9 Pescado's	9 Shiraz Rugs	2 Tino Gallery
10 Rib Shack	10 Village Kids	3 Twigs
11 Wolfgang's	11 Wholesale Down	4 Summit One

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Old Edwards Inn
The Lodge

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