

# Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 6, Number 5

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Thursday, Jan. 31, 2008

## On-going

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

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

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

## Every Monday

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

## Every Wednesday

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

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

## Every Thursday

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

## Every Saturday

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

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

## Thursday, Jan. 31

• PTO meeting at the Highlands School. Dinner at 5 p.m. before the meeting at 6 p.m. Spaghetti, chicken fingers, salad, drinks and desert. Adults are \$6 and children are \$4.

• HIARPT morning discussions are 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center with lunch to follow for those interested. Call Creighton Peden ([cphi2@verizon.net](mailto:cphi2@verizon.net)) 526-4038.

## Monday, Feb. 4

• A Bible study entitled *Walking by Faith: Lessons Learned in the Dark* by Jennifer Rothschild will be held at Highlands School at 3:45 pm in the Media Center and continuing each Monday for six weeks. Jennifer Rothschild is an author, speaker and recording artist who is physically blind. In this Bible Study, she shares how God has taught her to see that living is based on faith, not sight. Workbooks for the study are \$10. Call facilitator Carol Bowen with questions at 526-5168.

## Thursday, Feb. 7

• Super Fives Rotary Bingo will be on Thursday at the Highlands Community Building from 6:30-8:30 .pm. Super Fives features a final Super Bingo game prize of \$500 for a full card Bingo in 55 number calls or less - \$250 if more than 55 calls.

## Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
38-21°F	45-26°F	49-33°F

## Restaurant parking solutions offered

After months of discussion at Planning and Town Board meetings, it looks like changes to restaurant parking allowances is a real possibility.

At the Monday, Jan., 28 Planning Board meeting, even Allan Schultz, owner of Fireside Restau-

rant — longtime opponent to any suggestion of changing restaurant parking allowances — was happy with the potential solution.

Presiding over his first Planning Board meeting, Town Planner Joe Cooley presented three "shared" parking solutions with

restaurants in mind, but said the scenarios could be used for any business in town.

"Shared parking is one form of parking management and it may include credits for existing public parking and sharing park-

•See PARKING page 10



On Thursday, Jan. 24, Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell and Jackson County Sheriff Jimmy Ashe, signed a mutual aid agreement allowing their agencies to enforce the law in each others "territory." From left is Captain Steve Lillard and Sheriff Jimmy Ashe of Jackson County and Chief Bill Harrell and Captain Todd Ensley of Highlands. Photo by Kim Lewicki

## Enforcement net widens with agreement

Citizens should no longer assume the presence of a Jackson County Sheriff's Department vehicle on the streets of Highlands pure happenstance. As of last Thursday, the Highlands Police Department and the Jackson County Sheriff's Department entered into a mutu-

al aid agreement.

"This will bridge a gap in the collaboration of agencies," said Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell. "We're neighbors, kissing cousins, with some of the town's limits in Jackson County."

With the two areas so close

together, Harrell said law enforcement needs a strong unity and the agreement will strengthen ties with one another.

Jackson County Sheriff Jimmy Ashe said due to proximity, the communities of Highlands and

•See NET page 21

## Occupancy Tax Committee finalizing report

Precisely how the county should disburse the occupancy tax collected by lodging establishments in Macon County is still up in the air.

At its second meeting Thursday, Jan. 24, members of the Occupancy Tax Study Committee were divided on its disbursement. Part of the committee is leaning

toward a Travel & Tourism Authority (TTA) which could give the funds collected back to the areas from which they came with the chambers of commerce just one of the recipients; the other part would prefer everything stay as it is with the Highlands and Franklin chambers of commerce and a newly formed group representing

Nantahala as the sole recipients.

County Attorney Lesley Moxley and County Manager Jack Horton were at the meeting to both advise on the legalities of the occupancy tax disbursement and to explain how other counties handle their money.

Moxley said the main prob-

•See OCCUPANCY page 9

## • Inside •

Letters .....	2
Obituaries .....	3
Wooldridge .....	4
Another View .....	5
From Turtle Pond .....	6
Coaches Corner .....	8
Classifieds .....	16
Upcoming Events .....	18
Police, Fire, Sheriff .....	23

## Funding to include Highlands School

Toward the end of a four-hour work session Sunday, Jan. 27, Macon County Commissioners heard financial scenarios for funding upcoming capital projects – most of which had been on the failed bond referendum.

Noting there was little on the school bond referendum for Highlands, commissioners agreed to discuss funding Highlands School roof repairs, bathroom renovations and a new soccer field behind the elementary wing with the package.

"Franklin High School has football and it has a football field. Highlands School has soccer and it needs a field," said Commission Chairman Charlie Leatherman. "It will improve the school campus and offer them a place to compete at the school. It's for the kids and I will support it."

Commissioner Ronnie Beale is on the school board committee and presented the soccer field scenario to the board at the work session. However, Leatherman said protocol being what it is the school board needs to formally request the county to fund the soccer field.

Beale said it's expected to cost \$250,000 and asked if the county could fund Highlands' projects now and have the county reim-

•See FUNDING page 5



# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • LETTERS •

### Exactly who is responsible?

Dear Editor,

On Tuesday, Dec. 11 there was a terrible accident on U.S 64 involving a tractor trailer carrying water bottles. As my husband and I were driving down to Franklin last week, we noticed that the debris from this accident was still strewn along the bank, and when I use the word debris, I don't mean the water bottles, but the actual trailer portion of the truck!

We wondered who is responsible for cleaning this mess up? It seems strange that there is a littering law and if you are caught throwing trash out of your car window you may receive a hefty fine, but if you trash your entire truck and leave it on the side of the road it just sits there indefinitely without penalty?

I hope that someone, (N.C. DOT, the trucking company, the county?) will clean this up before we embark on another tourist season. It is not the most appealing welcome to our community of natural beauty.

Katy Calloway  
Highlands

### One final word...

Dear Editor,

As promised, this letter is my defense of the Christian faith. I intend for this to be my last response in the spirited discussion between Mr. Hancock, Ms. Brugger and myself. In my original letter I argued that for a world view to have validity it must answer four fundamental questions. These are questions of origin, meaning, morality, and destiny. I will attempt to give clear, brief answers to these age-old questions. I'm sure some things will be lost in the effort. I will borrow from multiple sources, and in the interest of space will not cite them all.

Let us begin at the beginning. The Bible tells us that God created the universe in six days approximately 6,000 years ago. Now before you dismiss this idea due to belief in an old earth, read on. I believe there is abundant evidence that supports a belief in a young earth. One example of this evidence is the receding moon. Scientists have observed that the moon is moving away from us about two inches every year. If one could reverse the process, the earth and moon would have been touching about two billion years ago. Or say the earth was five billion years old the moon would be out of sight by now. Another example is the measurable weaken-

## • HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



### LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

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

## Highlands' Newspaper

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ing of the earth's magnetic field. Ten thousand years ago the magnetic field would have been too strong to support life. There are many other evidences. Keep in mind that Christ's first miracle was making wine from water. Even though the wine was moments old, it had the appearance of age.

Why did God create the universe in the first place? I believe the Bible gives us a hint. He created the universe for His glory (Romans 11:36, Isaiah 43:7). It is by bringing glory to God that we find meaning in life. How?

Well, I borrow this thinking almost entirely from Dr. Ravi Zacharias, and I'll try to do it justice. Dr. Zacharias says that there are four things that bring meaning to life and surface at different times in life. These four are wonder in childhood, truth in adolescence, love in young adulthood, and security in old age. We all experience these things or have searched for them in their absence. For the Christian, all of these longings are satisfied in the person of Christ. Worship is the linchpin, so to speak, but what is worship? Archbishop William Temple defined it in these terms, "Worship is the submission of all of our nature to God. It is the quickening of conscience by His holiness, nourishment of mind by His truth, purifying of imagination by His beauty, opening of the heart to His love, and submission of will to His purpose. All this gathered up in adoration is the greatest expression of which we are capable."

Unlike most other major world religions, the Christian's worship is not confined to a building. The Christian worships when he or she does anything that reflects the nature of Christ. The Christian doesn't have to go to the temple because we take the temple with us. So, when Ms. Brugger suggests that the Christian finds meaning in "a personal relationship with God/Jesus" she is half right. While the relationship is essential, it isn't the end. We worship because of the relationship, and through worship we bring glory to God, thus fulfilling our original purpose and find meaning in the process.

Morality. The Bible teaches us that evil entered the world and humanity in the Garden of Eden. This is when Adam and Eve disobeyed God's one and only prohibition and left all of mankind with a sin nature. This is what is known as the fall. God then set up His law in an effort to keep us from creating complete chaos. God's law is absolute and His standard is perfection. But how is it that imperfect beings reach this goal of perfection? The answer is, we can't. However, the Christian has an advocate in Christ. So what of Ms. Brugger's question of people born before Christ who through "no fault of their

•See LETTERS page 22



## • OBITUARIES •

### Loretta McCall

Loretta McCall, age 75, of Cashiers, NC, died Wednesday, January 23, 2008 at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. She was a native of Jackson County, the daughter of the late Jerry Mirah Bradley and Etta White Bradley. She was married to the late Alvis McCall, who died in 1979. She was a homemaker and a member of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, where she was a former secretary and treasurer.

She is survived by three daughters, Margaret Gibson of Seneca, SC, Sharon Pressley of Etowah, NC, and Cynthia McCall of Brevard, NC; four sons, Griffin McCall, Jerry McCall and Alan McCall all of Cashiers, NC, and Terry McCall of Lincolnton, NC; one sister,



Loretta McCall

Beth Corbin of Cashiers, NC; eighteen grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren also survive. She was preceded in death by a son Ottis McCall.

Funeral services were held Sunday, Jan. 27 at 2:30 p.m. at Cashiers First Baptist Church, with Rev. Phil Sherrill, Rev. Johnny Noris, Rev. Scotty Patrick, and Rev. Delbert McCall officiating. Burial was at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Cemetery. Donations may be made to RBC Centura Bank for James Alan McCall, P.O. Box 1610, Cashiers, N.C 28717.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

### Dr. Richard Grossman

Dr. Richard Grossman, 83, of Branford, Conn., devoted husband of 53 years of Roberta (Davis) Grossman, died at Yale New Haven Hosp. on Thursday, January 24, 2008.

Born in Los Angeles, CA., March 17, 1924, he was the son of the late Jacob & Pauline (Sharp) Grossman. Beloved father of Alan (Marcia Goldberg) Grossman of Brookline, MA., Debra Grossman of Highlands, N.C., & Ellen (William) Habelow of Branford. Cherished grandfather of Leslie & Paul Habelow & Benjamin Grossman.

Richard attended the University of Connecticut, graduated from Indiana University, the University of Pennsylvania Dental School and completed an Internship in Oral Surgery at Yale New Haven Hospital. He began his own dental practice in Branford, Conn. in 1954.

During WWII, Dick served with the Army in the European Theater of Operations as a Medic with the 11th Armored Division-Thunderbolts. He was a past-president of the New Haven Dental Association and of the Branford Rotary Club, and he was a member of the clinical faculty of the Dental Department of Yale New Haven Hospital.

Funeral services were held at Temple Beth Tikvah, 196 Durham Rd, Madison, Conn. On Sunday, Jan. 20. Interment services followed in the Bikur-Cholim-Sheveth Achim Cemetery, Brockett Place, East Haven, Conn.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Connecticut Food Bank, 150 Bradley Rd., East Haven, CT. 06512, New England Organ Bank, One Gateway Center, Suite 202, Newton, MA. 02458 or to Temple Beth Tikvah.

Funeral arrangements in care of the Robert E. Shure Funeral Home, New Haven.

### Edna Lewis Whitmire

Edna Lewis Whitmire, 84, of Highlands, died Sunday, January 13, 2008, at her daughter's home in Louisville, KY.

A year-round resident of Highlands for more than 60 years, she was born in Hazlehurst, Ga. She was the daughter of George W. and Queen Harris Lewis. She came to Highlands as a bride in 1946 and made the mountains her home. Ms. Whitmire was an active member of First Baptist Church of Highlands and was always involved in businesses in Highlands: first as an employee with Reeves Hardware, then owner and manager of Kalmia Court (most recently known as Old Creek Lodge) and in later years as a salesperson at Wit's End. Also, she served for many years on the Highlands Zoning Board.

She is survived by three daughters: Susan Crane and husband Baker of Highlands, Eddie Lee Brooks and husband Bill of Louisville, Ky, and Lisa Whitmire of Atlanta, Ga; one sister Evelyn Hicks of Florida and one brother Gene Lewis of Georgia; four grandchildren, Henry Crane of Highlands, Hannah Sykes and husband Jeffrey of Reidsville, NC, Caleb and Cassie Brooks of Louisville, Ky; and one great-grandchild, Hayes Sykes.

A memorial service will be held on March 8 at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Highlands. The family will receive friends the two hours prior to the service.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church of Highlands or the James Graham Brown Cancer Center (University of Louisville Hospital).

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## • LAUGHING AT LIFE •

### A convoluted mind

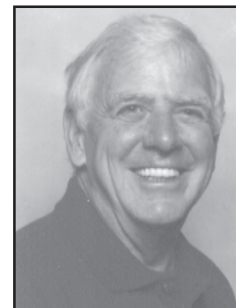
I had just finished telling a friend how I felt that every single presidential candidate was a crook and couldn't be trusted when he blurted out, "You were a cop for way too long." Guilty as charged! Police work has twisted my thinking beyond the norm. I see evil when most folks don't. I'm not talking about your everyday run of the mill just being cynical stuff because most cops consider that normal. I'm talking about thinking of things far, far outside the box; the "not normal" stuff. Police work has left me with a convoluted mind but there are worse "sick puppies" out there than me.

This is a good thing because convoluted thinkers can easily spot the more dangerous types, like politicians. They are a scary bunch. Actually I'm talking about the real "two clicks off" people that can't easily be spotted. Being the way I am, I can spot them after a short talk. If you're wondering how you might fit into the convoluted thinker spectrum, allow me to propose several hypotheses and see how well you do.

Consider these statements. While in flight, the pilot turns on the "fasten seat belt" sign and the airplane experiences turbulence. Therefore, turning on the seat belt sign causes turbulence. Here's another one exactly like it. Humans pollute the planet and the planet begins to warm. Therefore, polluting the planet causes warming. If you answered "true" to both statements then I congratulate you and welcome you aboard.

Oh, no! You say you're more confused than ever about your status. Allow me to continue. Consider this. A presidential candidate, exhausted, stressed and losing in the polls, breaks down and cries on national television. Immediately her poll numbers skyrocket and she wins the election. Conclusion: The American people want a president who breaks down and cries on national television when he or she is tired, losing the fight and under stress. Did that clear things up for you? Oh, by the way, based on convoluted thinking, Jimmy (The devil made him do it.) Swagger could cry his way right into the White House with a landslide victory.

Here's a short list of convoluted thoughts to help you further decide where you stand: If everyone on the planet smoked marijuana, no one would get on an airplane. If going to heaven is



**Fred Wooldridge**

•  
**Feedback is encouraged!**  
**email:**

**askfredanything@aol.com**

so wonderful, how come everyone dreads dying? If there are virgins in heaven, will any of them be from Miami? Will they be fat and ugly? If everyone from New York City moved to Highlands, would Franklin look like a much better place to live?

The elevation of Tupelo, Mississippi, is 486 feet. That has nothing to do with convoluted thinking. I just thought I'd mention that just in case any Highlanders are sick of the growth and are

thinking of moving. Hmmm, on second thought, that might be convoluted.

How about this one? The same people who complain about Highlands' growth are the same people who want to bring more people to Highlands so they can make a decent wage and not have to move. Conclusion: Those people don't really want anyone coming here but wish they would mail Highlanders the money and stay out.

Here's another. Highlanders who are most vocal about throwing all the illegal immigrants out of here are the same people who hire them the most. And finally, Highlanders want their property values to rise but want property taxes to go down. Now that's convoluted thinking. Are you catching on? Isn't it fun? If none of this makes any sense, be very afraid because you might be normal.

Since I am no longer trying to save the world from anything, including itself, and I am not interested in making things better for the next generation, my grandchildren and all that silly stuff, I sit back and watch the world become more and more convoluted everyday.

It reminds me of the kingdom of people who drank from the poisoned well and became insane. They were all crazy but it didn't matter because everyone was equally as nuts. Those who didn't drink from the well were considered crazy. Conclusion: People who are normal and not convoluted are all crazy and should not be trusted. That's another reason to stay as twisted as you can.

PS - I drank from the well a long time ago and therefore, I never trust a man who doesn't drink.

• Read Fred online at [www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com), scroll down, click on News.

## • ANOTHER VIEW •

### Beware of libelous emails

I recently received an e-mail entitled, "Who is Barack Obama?". What I read was a vicious and false attack on the Illinois senator, a repetition of previously discredited charges.

The correspondence claimed that Sen. Obama was a Muslim who had been schooled by radical Islamists. Among other claims was one that Obama had used the Koran instead of the Bible when he took the Oath of Office in the U.S. Senate, and that he refuses to pledge allegiance to the American flag. There was a reference to his Mom's atheism.

I've decided against reproducing the letter in this column, but I'll forward it to any reader who requests it, although I suspect anyone with e-mail has already found his inbox soiled by it. The letter concludes, "Muslims have told us that they plan to destroy the U.S. from the inside out, what better way than at the highest level — the president of the United States, one of their own!!!!"

I hope I got the correct number of exclamation points. That's pretty audacious, but even more brazen is the challenge to readers to check the authenticity of the claims with [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com), a website which researches the validity of urban legends, and which has dismissed many a myth. If a recipient of the letter accepts the challenge and links to [snopes.com](http://snopes.com) he finds exactly the opposite, that the site identifies the charges as false, even reproducing the letter and rejecting each of its claims.

We've been conditioned to accept the validity of the written word, and sometimes forget that anybody can post anything on the web. It is, after all, the written word, and as such, is cloaked in a mantle of authenticity. When John Kennedy ran for president in 1960, it was more difficult to smear his name than it is to slander Obama's in 2008. A person had to stand on a street corner handing out leaflets to one person at a time. The risk of confrontation was always present. The hate monger might hand a leaflet to an Irish Catholic.

The message of hatred was just as vile as it is today, but it was more arduous and risky to disseminate than it is today. A person with a computer



**Dr. Henry Salzarulo**

**Feedback is encouraged.  
email:**

**[hsalzarulo@aol.com](mailto:hsalzarulo@aol.com)**

and email addresses can instantly send the letter to tens or hundreds of contacts. Each recipient can then just as easily forward it to another bunch of friends. Even with duplications and coffee breaks, a lie can theoretically reach every computer in the United States within hours. I didn't do the math. Actually I have no idea how to do the math. I'm guessing and there are variables, but you get the point. Hate literature is much easier,

less costly and less dangerous to disseminate than it once was.

Even TV has limits on the political advertising it accepts, and ads are expensive. Emails are instant and free. They can be sent anonymously if one chooses, or if he fears a cyber haymaker in response. I've had some cyber blows in response to things I've written in this column, but none has put me on the canvas. While they don't hurt as much as the real thing, they are not painless, either. I'm proud to say that the shots I've taken are not from people who think I lied, but from readers who don't like what I said or how I said it. My only hope is that they keep reading, and swing when they see fit.

Freedom of Speech is not absolute. Slander and libel laws exist to prevent character assassination.

Unfortunately, the Internet is a tough beat to police. Barack Obama's dark skin and Muslim name make him a ready target for bigots, just as John Kennedy's Catholicism exposed him to similar abuse nearly half a century earlier. The difference is that the venom can be spread so much faster today.

### ... FUNDING continued from page 1

burse itself during the 2008-2009 budget year.

But Finance Director Evelyn Southard had researched a Phase I funding package that could take care of Highlands School, East Franklin School's new addition, the 5-6 school construction, fund the Macon Southwestern Community College addition and the senior services building renovations.

"Originally we thought we could only finance \$10 million a year, but the larger banks have gotten creative and come up

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for next year's budget," said Southard.

Phase 2 is \$16 million for the North Macon K-4 school and could be funded at 4.25% to 4.5% for 20 years with the installment contract issued in 2009-2010 with the first payment due at the beginning of the 2009-2010 budget year.

To service the debt on Phase 2, taxes could increase by 1.13 cents to 27.88.

Southard calculated the scenario based on the highest interest rate and said general assumptions are that the value of one penny in property tax revenue would in-

• See FUNDING page 20



# Happy Birthday, Michele



Love from  
Jesse, Erin, Emily  
and Tyler

## • REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

### In the Time of Kings

**A**re you depressed about world affairs? Presidential race getting you down? Worried about the economy?

I read a new book that lifted my spirits, and it might lift yours: *King Kaiser Tsar*, by Catrine Clay [940.3C]. This is a story of the three men who ruled England, Germany and Russia in the years before World War I. How could this be uplifting you might ask? After a reminder that less than a hundred years ago a great part of the world was ruled by absolute monarchs, I felt much better about today's world.

Ms. Clay has worked for the BBC for over 20 years, directing and producing award-winning documentaries. Her book is based on a documentary of the same title and draws on previously unpublished letters and diaries made public by Queen Elizabeth, creating intimate portraits of these men and their families. The three rulers were cousins, and the book documents how family dysfunction interacted with world events to lead to WWI.



Katie Brugger  
[k-brugger@hotmail.com](mailto:k-brugger@hotmail.com)

*Great Powers* by Paul Kennedy, I have had a different understanding of WWI, and this new book only confirmed this point of view.

Over the last 500 years, a succession of European nations took their turn as the dominant power: Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands, France, Austria, and finally in the 1800s Great Britain. The great wars through history — the Thirty Years War, the Hundred Years War — have been between the dominant world power and the ascending power. At

the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was time for Germany to succeed Britain (as we now forecast China or India to succeed us).

Germany had just become a nation in the latter half of the 1800s. In the mid-1500s there were more than 2,000 tiny fiefdoms, kingdoms, and city-states in the area which became Germany. For various reasons it lagged behind other nations in the development of the nation-state.

Culturally, Germany was on fire by the 1800s. Germany excelled in universities, science, and engineering, making it a powerhouse in the new industrial revolution.

But Britain, like most great powers, was reluctant to give up the top spot. An example from *King Kaiser Tsar*: In 1904, France and England signed the Entente Cordiale, which, among other things, divided North Africa between France and England. Germany, with rapidly growing trade interests in North Africa, was left out. When the Germans protested and demanded unrestricted access to Morocco, an international conference was called to "decide" the matter, which allowed for foreign commerce in Morocco but only under France's supervision. Ms. Clay writes: "It was clear to everyone that the Moroccan crisis was not really about Morocco, but about alliances between the Great Powers. Germany's construction of a massive battle fleet under Tirpitz was seen for what it was, a threat to the balance of power, if necessary by means of war, and England, Russia, and France were not prepared to give Germany a place at the table."

Of course Germany was controlled by the Prussians who thought they were superior to all other races (the forerunner of Nazi Aryanism) and whose militarism was reflected in the Kaiser's complete worship of all things uniformed. But WWI was not a war of German aggression against innocent victims. It was a ruthless battle for world domination — the Otto-

•See BRUGGER page 13

## SPECIALTY FOODS

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The book highlighted many of the problems associated with hereditary absolute monarchies. Perhaps the most obvious problem is the first born son of the king is the heir, no matter what. Kaiser Wilhelm was a breech birth, born with an arm wrapped around his neck that never grew properly — withered and useless his entire life—and severe inner ear problems that affected his physical balance and possibly his mental balance. King George's older brother was practically a moron; luckily for England (and the rest of us) he died before he had a chance to be King.

A second problem is that the pool of potential mates was relatively small, as there was a high standard for purity of royal blood — the Germans had a word it: *ebenbürtig*. The royal families had much more in common with one another than with the people of their countries. The men were nominally from their country (the current English royal family is mostly German, they changed their name to Windsor after WWI to hide that fact) but the women usually came from outside so they were not of the same nationality as the people they ruled. There was often a conflict of interest: "Alix (wife of the Tsar), half-German, half-English, was writing to her Danish mother-in-law as though they were both Russian. This dual and triple identity, normal for European royals, was manageable in peacetime but deadly in times of war."

World War I is one of those historical events that are difficult for most of us to comprehend: we are taught that it began with the murder of an Austro-Hungarian Archduke by a Serbian. How could that lead to the trenches of France? I love what Bob Dylan wrote in his song *With God on our Side*: "The First World War, boys, it closed out its fate/the reason for fighting, I never got straight/but I learned to accept it, accept it with pride/for you don't count the dead/with God on your side."

Ever since I read *Rise and Fall of the*

## • HIS & HERS •

### License?

## We Don't Need No Steenkin' License!

There are a few scenes in classic movies that are so effective that the dialogue has passed into the common language. One of those is in *The Treasure of Sierra Madre*. Mexican bandits have confronted American gold miners, including Humphrey Bogart. The bandits claim to be federal police.

Challenged to produce their badges, one gives the memorable reply, "Badges? We don't need no steenkin' badges." And then they begin shooting.

Well a situation began in New Jersey, then played out in the Court of Appeals of Maryland, which justifies the modified use of that line. It also should concern all citizens of the US who care about where this nation is headed.

Ramiro Silba Alavez, a citizen of Mexico, got a driver's license in New Jersey by presenting false documents which represented that he was a US citizen and a resident of New Jersey. NJ required that anyone seeking a driver's license there show proof of citizenship. Somehow, NJ got word of his false documents and "withdrew" his license after it expired in 1991.

Senor Alavez, being both cheeky and resourceful, then moved to Maryland, which doesn't bother to check whether a license applicant has a legal right to be there. Alavez applied for a Maryland license. That was denied because Maryland does prohibit granting a license to anyone whose license has been suspended in another state.

Alavez doesn't sound like a man of means, but with the help of support groups for illegal immigrants, he took his case to the highest court in Maryland, the Court of Appeals. The majority there just ruled on 9 January that the DMV was correct to deny a license to Alavez, not because he was an illegal immigrant, but because his license was suspended in another state.

It was six years ago that I was invited to meet with a group of state legislators from around the country, on the subject of driver's licenses. Keep in mind the reciprocal rule, that anyone who has a license from one state could



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go to any other and get a new license there.

That made the entire process of issuing drivers licenses as weak as the laws of the weakest state. That's why all of the 9/11 hijackers were carrying multiple licenses from many states. I told those state legislators that either they would work with each other to establish

minimum standards for proof of citizenship, or Congress would set a standard and compel the states to follow.

The states did not act together. Congress has forced the issue, and the Homeland Security Department has just issued the final regulations for all states to adopt those minimum standards.

What is the importance of all this?

Our northern and southern borders are still as porous as Swiss cheese. We don't have a big problem with Canadians sneaking across the border because their standard of living is about the same as ours. But we have a huge problem with Mexicans because the US has become the ad hoc welfare department for Mexico (and a hundred other nations).

This presents a related set of problems: higher costs for education, welfare, hospitals, police departments, prisons, plus the dangers from drug dealers and terrorists, plus the problem of foreigners voting in American elections. All of these problems are made worse by the issuance of driver's licenses to illegal aliens.

These points are all obvious, but not obvious enough for the Governor of New York, the California legislature (and several others), plus some pathetic positions on this issue taken by certain Democrat and Republican candidates for President.

It ought to be obvious that American elections, hospitals, schools and the like are paid for by American taxpayers for the benefit of American citizens. The idea that any aliens who sneak across the border are entitled to the same things simply because they've got a bad deal in whatever third-world nation they come from, will bankrupt local, state and national governments in the US, as well as challenge the integrity

• See HIS & HERS page 21

## • HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL NEWS •

## Summary of combined January meeting of the Hospital board of directors

To keep the news media and the public better informed about Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, we are providing you with a summary of the more significant actions and discussion items coming before the hospital's board of directors at its most recent meeting on Thursday, Jan. 24, 2008.

• Board Chairman Bud Smith began the meeting by remembering several late members of the hospital family who have died recently. Smith called the late John Bullock, who was a member of the Foundation board and also the hospital's Physician Recruiting Committee, a great friend and supporter of the hospital. The retired drug company executive died unexpectedly Dec. 2, 2007. Smith also remembered long-time Foundation board member Kenneth W. Cooper DMD, who died Jan. 2, 2008, as a result of fall at his home in Sarasota, FL. Smith called Cooper, who was also a volunteer in the mail room at the hospital for many years, a

strong influence on the Foundation board for many years. He said the two men would be greatly missed at the hospital. He also expressed condolences to the family of Hospital board member Tom Sawyer on the death of his wife Vicki, who had lost a valiant battle with cancer just prior to Christmas.

• Finance Committee Chairman Julian Franklin reported that the committee had held a lengthy and productive meeting that week, closely reviewing several key cost centers. He said the committee will continue to monitor those areas. Franklin also said the Finance Committee had approved the purchase of new fluoroscopy equipment for the hospital's radiology department. The hospital's existing equipment, which has been in place since the new hospital opened in 1993, needs to be replaced. He said the committee also approved the pro forma for a new sleep study program to be operated

• See HOSPITAL page 15

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## • HIGHLANDS SCHOOL BASKETBALL •



At Friday's home game against Cherokee, Freshmen Marlee McCall plays defense, Sarah Power takes a stance under the basket and aset and Brie Schmitt looks for a steal.  
Photo by Stephanie McCall

## Teams pounding out tough year

Highlands Varsity Girls scored their first win of the season Thursday, Jan. 24 against Blue Ridge beating them 52-38

They came on strong during the first quarter, slowed down to Blue Ridge's second quarter but came back after half-time scoring 20 points to Blue Ridge's 12.

Top scorer was Brie Schmitt with 19 followed by Taylor Buras with 14, Courtney Rogers with 6, Bobbi Jo Talley with 4, Sarah Power with 2 and Jessica Gagne with 1.

"We got everything to work for us in the game," said Coach Brett Lamb. "Our offense moved the ball well and we made great shots, our defense moved and had 15 steals and 30 rebounds. It was a good motivation!"

Friday's game against Cherokee didn't fare as well, but the team played hard to a bigger team losing to 44 to 65. Highlands beat them first quarter 14 to 10, tied them fourth quarter 12 to 12, but couldn't get it over Cherokee.

Marlee McCall and Brie Schmitt were top scorers with 8 points, followed by Devon Potter and Sarah Power with 7, Courtney Rogers scored 5, and Taylor Buras and Bobbi Jo Talley with 4 each, and Susan Johnson with 1.

As a team the Lady Highlanders had 20 rebounds, 7 blocks and 9 assists. "We are continuing to build and grow with the fundamentals of the game and we are getting better as a team," said Coach Lamb.

The girls lost at home to Robbinsville, Monday, Jan. 28 54 to 77 which makes 1 win and 21 losses for the season, but a conference record of 1 win 2 losses.

The team had a strong fourth quar-

ter with 21 points against Robbinsville 19, but it wasn't enough to swing the score.

Top scorer was Sarah Power with 15 points followed by Marlee McCall with 11 and Courtney Rogers with 10 points. Next up was Brie Schmitt with 8 and Taylor Buras with 6 points. Kate Marie Parks and Jessica Gagne each scored 2 points.

"We played a great game against the number 1 team in the conference," said Coach Lamb. "Robbinsville capitalized on our mistakes and made their free throw shots."

The Lady Highlanders had 18 blocks/tips and 23 rebounds.

The next home game is against Swain County on Feb. 5 at 6:30 p.m.

• • •

The boys played a tough game against Cherokee, too, Friday, Jan. 25, losing 82-70.

Top scorers were Jake Heffington with 23 points and Ezra Herz with 19 points. Andrew Billingsley and Michael Shearl each scored 10 points, Mikey Lica scored 5 and Casey Molinary scored 3 points.

Highlands lost at home to Robbinsville 41 to 75 Monday night, but at least a good part of the team got play time.

High scorer was Jake Heffington with 13 points followed by Andrew Billingsley with 6 and Ezra Herz with 5. Next up were Mikey Lica and Michael Shearl with 4 each; Michael Baty, Robbie Vanderbilt and Josh Delacruz each with 3.

Varsity Boys season record is 4 wins 17 losses. The conference record is 2 wins 1 loss.

The next home game is Feb. 5 against Swain County at 8 p.m.

## • COACH'S CORNER •

### A running commentary

Due to the tremendous response from my last running basketball commentary (TWO, count 'em, TWO emails - and only one was from mom) we are live from the Potts household and ready for the start of Duke and Maryland. However, due to overtime between UVA and Georgia Tech, you get extra bonus commentary. (The gift that keeps on giving).

6:45 p.m. - Georgia Tech has a 2 point lead off of a score inside by Jeremis Smith. Nevermind, Sean Singletary just tied the game with an offensive rebound. Singletary is continuing to dominate this game from all ends of the floor.

6:52 - As dominant as Singletary has been, overtime has belonged to Matt Causey. Causey is a basketball vagabond who transferred to GT from North Georgia College. His former coach in high school, Seth Vining, delivered a butt kicking of epic proportions to my basketball team this weekend...so I feel a special connection with Causey. (That was sarcasm).

6:56 - Apparently, Duke and Maryland are tied up in College Park - I have no clue seeing as I am still watching this other game. GT ends up winning by 10 in OT. The announcers inform me that this has been the seventh OT game in the ACC this season - speaks a lot to how competitive the ACC has been thus far.

7:02 - We join Duke - MD after the 12 and under timeout and it looks like MD has been taking advantage of Duke inside and Duke is struggling on the boards as usual.

7:10 - Duke takes a 4 point lead, mainly from forcing turnovers. Henderson just picks up a horrible offensive foul call as Coach K mildly disagrees with the official. Something tells me that Coach K and Gary Williams will set a world record for "most profanity used in a 40 minute time period."

7:21 - MD with an 8-0 run to take a 4-point lead. Gary Williams is taking a gamble by playing his PG Grievs Vasquez with 2 fouls. Maryland is dominating in the half court, and that is why they are building on their lead.

7:36 - MD just hit on a huge spurt after a T picked up by Coach K to take a 9 point lead. It's amazing the physicality of this game thus far, and I can honestly say I have never seen a Duke team in recent years get so few calls, despite being on the road. I'm sure Coach K felt the same way,



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which is why he got T'ed.

7:57 - Duke with a 6-0 run out of halftime and they look somewhat energized. I bet Coach K read them some poetry and inspired them. Either that or Wojo did some interpretive dance.

8:12 - Whew. Duke managed to take the lead for a minute, but now trail by one at the under 12 timeout.

Incredible pace to this game right now, I am amazed at MDs inside game and Duke's transition game right now - just great offensive performances.

8:18 - Singler and Paulus pick up back to back 4th fouls which will cause Duke some major problems down the stretch. With 9:42 to play Duke has the lead, but can they sustain it with their foul troubles?

8:25 - Under 8 timeout and Duke has a 4 point lead. MD needs to keep pounding the ball inside, as Duke has no answer and is in foul trouble.

8:36 - Duke has extended the lead out to 9 with 4:29 left to play. Maryland will certainly have one more run in them, it remains to be seen if Duke can handle it. Nolan Smith has been huge for the Blue Devils in the second half.

8:38 - Immediately after I type that, Maryland nails a three to cut the lead down to six. This one is definitely going down to the wire.

8:42 - After Duke runs some clock, Greg Paulus (Sperhero alter ego=Captain Turnover) turns it over to MD and allows the Terps to creep closer.

8:44 - James Gist nails a three and the Terps are coming back from behind the arc and not inside. Duke shooting some big FT's right now.

8:46 - Huge bucket from Nelson on a drive to the hoop. Duke is really hurting offensively with Nolan Smith on the bench with an undisclosed injury. Maryland ball with 54 seconds to play.

8:48 - Ridiculous foul call on Singler for his 5th foul. Scratch that, I just saw the replay and he did foul him. Gist makes one of two and Duke is now on the line shooting FT's again.

8:54 - It looks like Duke is going to pull this one out-incredible comeback from the Blue Devils, particularly battling foul trouble. MD is peaking at the right time, and I think they will ultimately make the NCAA tournament at the end of the season.

Duke goes to Chapel Hill in 10 days - then we will find out if they are ready for prime time.



## ... OCCUPANCY continued from page 1

lem is accountability. "You can't use the money for economic development and you can't co-mingle occupancy tax money with other funds. If you do, taxpayers can sue the county and require that the money be paid back out of the commissioners' pockets," she said. "The thought is that chambers' primary duty is to promote business in their communities and they have private members who pay dues for that."

She said it has been established by law, that chambers can use the money to promote general tourism in an area, but they can't use it to promote one business, can't spend it on everyday chamber business activities, or co-mingle it in any way.

"There are a lot of cases out there when dealing with a private corporation like chambers of commerce, where a precise contract is needed and accountability procedures set up, so taxpayers know what they are getting for their money," she said. "The courts have been very specific about this. Regardless of the fact that chambers of commerce acted in all times in an honest way and with the best of intentions, the N.C. Supreme Court has been very clear."

She said contracts and strict accountability procedures keeps chambers safe, the county safe and taxpayers assured that the money levied is being used for the purposes for which it is collected.

"If you turn public funds over to an entity, you need an agreement with them because they have to be audited and you have to establish what the public purpose is," said Moxley. "With a TTA, the county remits the occupancy tax to the authority and it can contract with organizations in Franklin, Highlands and Nantahala, but the county finance director is treasurer for the TTA."

She said the fact that both the Franklin and Highlands visitor centers are housed with the chambers of commerce could be an issue.

Linda Harbuck, of Franklin Chamber of Commerce, admitted that co-mingling does take place. "I'm not going to lie, if it's slow and I need help stuffing envelopes, I have the visitor center employees do it," she said.

Moxley said that's precisely the issue. "Technically, that grant money has to be accounted for dollar for dollar. You need accountability to account for time associated with the money if it's county funds."

Horton said Haywood County uses a TTA which allocates the tax proceeds to different groups, with the chambers just one of the recipients.

"Accountability is the key issue," he said. "Throughout the state, people want to know what the money is spent on and how it specifically affects their economy."

Harbuck said Jackson County now uses a TTA to allocate the funds and Cashiers and Sylva get a portion granted to them and it appears to be working well.

If a TTA was established, the county finance officer would be responsible for the funds and their disbursement.

Commissioner Bob Simpson would like some of the tax collected to be used to promote Macon County as a destination and not just specific towns like Highlands and Franklin.

"We want tourism, but we don't do anything to get them here. We want to get them here, keep them here and get them to come back," he said. "Tourism money equals a strong economy and more tax revenue which means we can keep taxes low."

Mike Grubermann and Hank Ross, commissioners from Franklin and Highlands, respectively, both said they think the chambers know best how to market their areas.

"For instance, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce targets only folks seeking out second homes," said Ross. "Without knowing numbers, I wouldn't be comfortable allocating money to advertise the county unless I know it would be effective."

Simpson said using the money to target second home buyers is an economic development issue and can't be done with occupancy tax money.

Grubermann said each local area knows best how to handle its tourists and what it can offer and what it can deliver. "County ads would be more economic development oriented," he said. "When you get into tourism, it's a local thing."

Josh Drake, the Franklin lodging representative, said advertising for Macon County hasn't been done in the past and it won't happen unless a TTA is formed which could oversee promotions for each entity and the county, too. "Marketing the county could be beneficial for all," he said.

Everyone agreed that the 15% taken out of occupancy tax proceeds by the county the last couple of years for administrative expenses is too much and talk revolved around decreasing it to the old figure of 3%-5% with the a portion used to fund a TTA promoter.

For 2006-2007, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce received \$260,000 and the Franklin Chamber of Commerce received \$140,000. Projections for Highlands for 2007-2008 are \$280,000.

The group will meet a final time on Wednesday, Feb. 6 at 4 p.m. to finalize its recommendation for presentation at the Macon County Commission meeting Feb. 11.

Present at the meeting were Macon County Commissioners co-chairs Bob Simpson and Brian McClellan, Bob Kieltyka, of Highlands Chamber of Commerce; Linda Harbuck, of Franklin Chamber of Commerce; Ron Baker, Nantahala lodging representative; Josh Drake, Franklin lodging representative; Hank Ross and Dennis DeWolf, Town of Highlands commissioners; and Mike Grubermann, Town of Franklin commissioner. Neither Kieltyka, Harbuck or DeWolf are voting members.

So far, Highlands' occupancy representative, Rick Siegel, owner of the seasonal 4 1/2 Street Inn bed and breakfast, hasn't attended a meeting.

— **Kim Lewicki**

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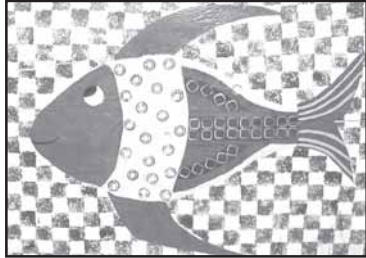
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... PARKING continued from page 1

ing among different buildings and facilities to take advantage of different peak use periods through dual use or remote parking," he said.

He said a number of jurisdictions allow on-street public parking within 200 ft. to 500 ft. to be counted toward the fulfillment of on-site parking requirements at a one-to-one or .75 ratio.

"This is typically seen in downtowns or other areas where land use activities are clustered, or mixed," he said. "It allows parking facilities to be used more efficiently and allows for reduction in the amount of impervious surface which would be needed for on-site parking consequently reducing storm water runoff."

He favors two of the three scenarios – using existing public parking or dual-use parking, but said dual-use requirements are much more complicated.

"Dual-use parking allows businesses in close proximity to each other with different primary hours of usage to share parking to meet required on-site parking requirements. However, to be effective and enforceable, a number of criteria must be met including determining the percentage of parking deemed available for dual-parking which can vary from 50% to 100%."

Additional criteria includes a to-scale map indicating the location of existing spaces and proposed dual-use spaces; proof that the sites will not overlap during hours of operation; documentation of hours of operation and peak business hours of both business; a written shared parking agreement between both businesses filed with the town which acts as a third party; should a business use and business hours change, the agreement is terminated; change of ownership of either parcel will require an agreement renewal; safe pedestrian access between businesses required via connecting sidewalks and not across major roadways; and clear signage identifying reserved spaces and hours of reservation would be required.

"Obviously, dual-use parking is more complicated but could serve a purpose when readily available public parking isn't available, like at Don Leon's, but a traffic engineer would be required to verify claims of usage during off- and peak-hours," he said.

Board member Linda Clark said either scenario would eliminate increasing impervious areas in town since parking areas whether public or private could serve two uses.

"We have a lot more public spaces than we used to. Are we being wise saying what business can open in town when we require on-site parking when we already have parking they could use if we recognize these public spaces?" she asked.

Cooley said Highlands should want to minimize impervious areas and this is one way to do it.

"You could opt to credit public parking first or give them the option to use dual-

use, but they can't double-dip. They would have to pick one," he said.

Using four restaurants outside the B1 district where businesses aren't required to supply parking as examples, Cooley drew up a scenario concerning Wild Thyme, Fireside, Don Leon's and Nick's using public parking spaces within 200 ft. and 300 ft.

Wild Thyme has 15 public spaces within 200 feet and 32 public spaces within 300 feet. If it was allowed to use the 15 spaces, seats could be increased from the current 30 to 66.75; if allowed to use the 32 spaces, seats could increase 102.

"We could stay in business with the 33 extra seats," said Carter Bruns, co-owner of Wild Thyme."

Fireside doesn't have a seat problem like Wild Thyme which under the current scenario has six on-site spots and seven off-site spots for 30 seats, but if Fireside could use public parking on Main Street in front of Wright Square, the private back lot would no longer be necessary.

"As it is now, I have the expense of maintaining a 10,000 sq. ft. parking lot – paving it, marking it, snow removal – but if I don't need it, I could sell the lot," said Shultz.

If allowed to use the 27 public parking spaces within 200 feet along Main Street Fireside, would be allowed to have 60.75 seats. He said that's all he needs.

Don Leon's, which currently uses on-site parking and remote parking at Furniture South, would get 6.75 seats if allowed to use three public spaces within 200 feet and 15.75 seats if allowed to use public parking within 300 feet.

Board member Pat Taylor wondered if allowing restaurants to use public, dual-use or remote parking would cause "seat creep."

"I'd like us to come up with a situation where everyone can come into compliance, but does that allow people to put in more tables so that eventually we are back to the same spot which is not enough parking to support the table count?" he asked. "When these restaurants opened they were in compliance, then businesses expanded and all of a sudden parking becomes an issue."

Town Administrator Richard Betz said as far as the town knows all the restaurants in town are in compliance but Wild Thyme had come to the Town Board requesting a change to the ordinance because with their seating calculations changed to 30 seats, they said they wouldn't be able to stay in business.

Board member Mike Bryson said at a recent Town Board meeting a commissioner suggested restaurants off Main Street couldn't use the public parking because employee parking regulations for businesses on Main Street force those businesses to use the public parking in other districts.

"As far as I know, the businesses off Main Street pay the same taxes as people on Main Street. Why can't the businesses in town use the parking the town has pro-

•See PARKING page 17



# • CONSERVATIVE POV •

## Do you ever wonder why?

Some of us are enjoying the excitement of the current Presidential campaigns and eagerly await the outcome of each primary contest. I consider this behavior as a logical result of the end of football season and the need for second-hand competition. Others consider it a waste of time and energy because "it doesn't make any difference," so who cares. And then there are those who think it does make a difference, and so we do care.

While Congress gets most of the attention, the Executive branch does much of the earth-shaking activity. As an example, rightly or wrongly, President Bush is responsible for our involvement in Iraq, which has required a huge investment in deterring terrorism and severely testing the resolve of the people. I don't choose this opportunity to debate the wisdom of the war, just to note the power of the President.

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was initially promoted by President Geo. H. W. Bush and was ratified in 1993 after President Bill Clinton made it a major legislative priority. NAFTA can be credited with the de facto deindustrialization of the U.S. It didn't feel good to me at the time it was passed, and it feels worse now.

A few months ago, I wrote about the North American Union being formed, in the likeness of the European Union. This initiative has been carried out by the Executive branch without the involvement of Congress. In the final analysis, it opens our borders, both north and south.

And now we learn from WorldNet-Daily "President Bush signed an agreement creating a 'permanent body' that commits the U. S. to 'deeper economic integration,' without ratification by the Senate as a treaty or passage by Congress as a law.

The Transatlantic Economic Integration between U. S. and the European Union was signed on April 30 (2007) at the White House by Bush, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, the current president of the European Council, and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso. The document acknowledges the economy remains in the forefront of globalization, arguing that the U. S. and the European Union 'seek to strengthen transatlantic economic integration.'

This agreement finalizes the 2005 U.S.-EU Summit Declaration on Enhancing Transatlantic Economic Integration and Growth. I don't think that the value



**Don Swanson**  
Feedback is encouraged. Email  
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of the Euro soaring while the value of the dollar plunges is by chance. Remember when there was a shadow idea floating around that the U.S. was the only super power and that was a bad thing? I wonder where that got started. And I wonder why.

Let's see if we can connect some dots. First, our educational system is in the toilet. Out kids are dummed-down to the point where they rank last in the devel-

oped countries in the world in science and math. Why was this allowed to happen? Why was this encouraged to happen? Uneducated kids equal no more super power. If the system needs to teach children English before they are taught math and science, what does that do to the rate at which all kids are taught?

Why the big push for diversification? Why encourage the young ones to seek their roots rather than assimilate into the great melting-pot society that has served us so well for a 100 years and more? Why does the national media seem bent on destroying our image? Why does Joe Six-pack feel so helpless to improve his position in life?

There have been rumors circulating for decades about the power of certain organizations and their desire to create a one-world government. The organizations are the Bilderberg Group, the Trilateral Commission and the Council on Foreign Relations. Conspiracists have for years been derided for thinking these groups have an extraordinary influence on human affairs.

There are certain events that I have a hard time understanding. One is the election of Jimmy Carter. When Carter entered the Democratic Party presidential primaries in 1976, he was considered to have little chance against nationally better known politicians. He had name recognition of 2%. When he told his family of his intention to run for President, his mother asked "President of what?"

Another is the election of Bill Clinton. Running as a throwaway candidate against a hugely popular Geo. H. W. Bush, Clinton overcame a beating in the Iowa primary and being behind in New Hampshire to become the candidate and President.

After being given up for dead last summer, McCain now leads the polls. How? Why? Carter, Clinton and McCain are members of the Council on Foreign Relations as well as Cheney, Katie Couric, Diane Sawyer, Leslie Stahl, Brian Williams and Dan Rather.

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## More about conservation easements

**By Mercedes Heller**  
President HCLT

The Highlands Cashiers Land Trust completed six conservation easements in 2007, for landowners wishing to ensure that their land is forever preserved and protected from development. Total acreage protected by these conservation easements is approximately 300 acres of pristine mountain land. Another ten conservation easements are currently in progress and will be completed in 2008.

Many people seek more information about conservation easements. For example: What are they? What are the benefits? What will happen to my land after I am gone? And, the list of questions goes on. This article will attempt to answer those and other questions as well as explain why easements are so important in the conservation movement.

A conservation easement is a legal document that contains permanent restrictions on the use or development of land. In essence, it is a voluntary contract entered into between a landowner (the grantor) and a land trust such as HCLT (the grantee) for the purpose of preserving certain conservation values of the property. These values include wildlife habitat, forests, open space, agricultural lands, scenic vistas, or historic structures.

The land trust (grantee) has the responsibility to enforce the use restrictions contained in a conservation easement and will periodically inspect the property to verify compliance with the terms of the conservation easement. Future owners also will be bound by the easement's terms, thus the land trust's responsibility is perpetual.

The conservation values of each parcel of land are unique. Each easement must be individually drafted to reflect both the specific conservation values and the goals and desires of the landowner. There are, however, certain activities that most conservation easements uniformly prohibit. These

include surface mining, industrial uses, non-agricultural commercial uses, construction of buildings and homes (unless otherwise reserved in one or more home sites) and other similar uses which by their nature would not protect the conservation values.

To further explain the reservation of one or more home sites on the easement property, a landowner may reserve the right for a certain number of sites that can be developed into single-family residences and sold or kept by the landowner to pass on to family members. These home sites would remain restricted by the conservation easement in order to minimize the effect of such development on the conservation values of the land.

The number of sites the landowner can reserve will depend upon various factors particular to each easement, including the size of the easement and the proposed location of the sites in relation to the conservation values to be protected. These sites are identified in the agreement to avoid location in important wildlife habitat and to protect scenic views.

A land owner may have a number of motives for granting a conservation easement. The most noble is the desire to ensure that the land is forever preserved and protected from development. However, there are significant tax incentives placing land in conservation easements, including federal and state charitable income tax deductions, state income tax credits, federal and state estate tax deductions and exclusions (including some post-mortem benefits) and real property tax relief.

For more information about conservation easements and the role played by the Highlands- Cashiers Land Trust in holding these easements, call Dr. Gary Wein, Executive Director of HCLT, at 828-526-1111; or email [hitrust@earthlink.net](mailto:hitrust@earthlink.net); or check our website at [hicasht.org](http://hicasht.org).



## MCSC Certifies Referees



Front row: Krash Gooder, Lydia Hanson, Danielle Thornton, Alecia Gerra, Emily Esterwood, Back Row: Tony Esterwood, Jeff Weller, David Holt, Caleb Bowers, George Gately (instructor), Guy Gooder. Not pictured is Rita Esterwood.

The Macon County Soccer Club sponsored a 19-hour referee clinic held over the second weekend of January. The course was taught at The Center of Family Medicine and supported by funds from The Macon County Challenge League. All participants successfully completed the grueling course taught by George Gately from Charlotte. Graduates are now able to referee at all levels of soccer including competitive tournaments. The Macon County Soccer Club would like to thank these individuals for sacrificing a weekend to improve the game of soccer in Macon County.

## January school board summary

By Sally Hansen  
Reporter

The school board moved quickly through its agenda, Monday night.

Macon County Schools Superintendent Dan Brigman informed the board that the request for plans to move forward on the proposed Highlands soccer field had been sent to the Facilities Review Committee, which was made up of two County Commissioners and two School Board members. These requests also included the proposed 5-6 middle school and the gymnasium and East Franklin Elementary School. It was decided that the project would be funded, as well as a metal roof for the gym and updating of restroom facilities.

Chairman Donny Edwards added that the Board should also ask for air conditioning to be added to the gyms at Franklin High School and Macon Middle School, as well as the gym under construction at Nantahala School. McCoy made a motion to formally approve these changes, and Cabe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Franklin High School Band and director Buddy Huckabee were recognized for their outstanding performance at the Valero Alamo Bowl in San Antonio, Texas. Superintendent Dan Brigman presented Huckabee with a certificate of excellence for the band's participation in the competition on December 27, 2007.

Next, Bill Van Horn, vice-president of the Nantahala Hiking Club (NHC), spoke about an ongoing program primarily fo-

cused on getting more kids out in nature. Through a program called "A Trail to Every Classroom," which is funded by a grant through the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the NHC is offering workshops to teachers in order to encourage hiking to be a lifelong physical activity. "No skills or equipment are required, so it's something everyone can do," Van Horn said.

The idea is to get both PE teachers and classroom teachers to get their students involved in outdoor activities by having both outdoor trips and actually holding classes that follow the NC Education Standards in outdoor classrooms.

The workshops are designed to help teachers design lesson plans that will be successful in these outdoor classrooms in subjects including Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies.

Van Horn also mentioned that the program is designed to have a lifelong impact on students. "Hiking on the Appalachian Trail can be a foundation for healthful living, active learning, service learning and place-based education," Van Horn said.

Board member Roberta Swank thanked Van Horn for giving awareness to the program. "Young people need to be out in nature," Swank said.

Macon Middle School (MMS) Assistant Principal Deborah Adams asked the Board for permission to hold an extra fundraiser for the school. It will benefit the MMS Fine Arts department, which includes the Band, the Chorus, and the Art departments.

"We want to hold a spring Arts and  
• See SCHOOL BOARD page 19

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## ... BRUGGER continued from page 6

man Empire was disintegrating and the "Great Powers" were jockeying to pick up the spoils. England and France, being the victors in WWI, got to chop up the Middle East into their respective zones of influence and we are reaping the benefits of their handiwork to this day.

I think a strong case can be made for the proposition that the twisted Third Reich and the horrors of WWII were a direct consequence of the thwarting of the natu-

ral power progression as documented in Kennedy's book. The powerful creative and cultural forces that are a large part of any nation's rise to world power status were crushed in Germany by the WWI surrender terms and when Hitler promised the Germans a path to greatness the people responded.

• All of Katie Brugger's columns are available on her website:  
[www.kathleenbrugger.com](http://www.kathleenbrugger.com)



• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

A Haitian Heart



Rev. Brian Sullivan  
Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

I have just returned from Haiti. It was a rather self-serving trip. One I felt compelled to do, so that I could see first-hand all the good works our church is doing. Before leaving, I saw the pictures, heard the stories, met some of the people, and even attempted to read the book I was given. I categorized it all in my filing-cabinet-of-life, a cabinet where I conveniently place similar experiences.

When I heard a word like “poverty” to describe Haiti, I figured it was comparable to the homeless folks that I spent time with in Atlanta. These were people who were surrounded by wealth, but couldn’t seem to pick themselves out of the cycle of racism, drugs, alcohol, or mental-illness.

With the words “poor living conditions,” I filed it with the multi-room house to which my youth group delivered a Thanksgiving dinner. Upon entering the house, I was met with a smell of live chickens, which could be seen through the floorboards.

With the word “disease,” I had a file marked “AIDS clinic” which I visited as a young seminarian. It was measurable to seeing people withering away despite the prescriptions and care they were given by the clinicians.

With a word like “broken heart,” I filed it under the child who lost his parents at a young age and was raised under the same roof with his brothers, uncle and grandparents.

In the first few hours in Haiti, I realized I had to build a whole new filing cabinet. The things that I saw and experienced were indefinable by anything I had previously experienced.

Poverty is no longer being homeless in Atlanta. Poverty is now defined by a six-year-old boy in a beautifully pressed red-checkered shirt walking three miles to school. On an empty stomach he embarks on a daily journey which begins every morning at 5:30. This journey winds along a major highway made of bedrock. He dreams of a graduation when he can patiently wait for a job in a town where there are no jobs *anywhere* despite his expertise in metal work and making cement bricks or his college degree in medical technology.

Poor living conditions are now defined as a banana thatch hut, next to a banana thatch hut, next to a banana thatch hut for *miles* on end with no bathroom. These conditions consist of cooking over a charcoal fire made from the only tree within walking distance of a town surrounded by scrub in a country deforested up to its boundary line on one side and as a result depleted of its topsoil which can be found in

•See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 22

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## A look at life inside Kenya's terror

• Note: Sarah Clark offers her experiences during the recent turmoil in Kenya. She is a former resident of Highlands and a member of the Community Bible Church, which sponsors her parents' ministry in Kenya. She also freelances for a Christian news magazine, WORLD. She wrote this very personal article showing the inner struggle as she lives through the violent times in Kenya.

**By Sarah E. Clark**  
Contributor

**I**t is frustrating to live in the middle of injustice. Some of my friends no longer have homes or food. Others burn homes and destroy lives. Yet the two leaders continue playing the blame game. They are both to blame. President Mwai Kibaki unfairly reclaimed his position. Police in Kisumu killed 50 rioting youths. The opposition leader, Raila Odinga declared it genocide. His supporters are burning, rioting, and killing.

I recognize reality - I cannot change everything. I can't make a difference everywhere. I cannot solve every problem. Nevertheless, I can do my part and believe others will do theirs.

What is going on around me makes me afraid. Not being able to stop the rampaging boys makes me mad. Seeing hungry children and not being able to feed them makes me sad. Not being able to leave the gate and see what is really happening drives me crazy. Listening to inaccurate reporting makes me feel like trashing the radio. Yet, I have done something. I have written the truth about Londiani for the world to read.

There are masses of people in town, refugees at the Catholic Church, police station and railway station. At the Catholic Church, people and their belongings occupy every bit of ground. Many saved some belongings and food. Furniture, mattresses, blankets, bags of clothes, sacks of maize and potatoes are piled on carts or in heaps on the ground. The food will not last long and soon children will be crying because of hunger pangs.

The young men are still on the rampage

but four truckloads of soldiers arrived this morning.

• • •

I just finished packing up my life. The threat was issued early afternoon. "If the Kikuyu did not leave then the youths would burn our compound." The Kikuyu fled.

I have friends among the rampaging gang of boys. They were trained. This violence was planned. They were paid. Someone is cooking their food. They have gathered from many miles away. They now number anywhere between 1,000-2,000. They are determined to drive away all the Kikuyu - and they are succeeding.

Looking at the big picture, I think, "Just get me out of here." Then I think of individuals and it becomes difficult.

Kenya will never be the same. The economy has suffered a five-year set back - at best. Londiani will never be the same. So many will never return and those who do will retain an element of fear and hostility.

Tomorrow morning we travel to Nairobi.

• • •

A friend recently expressed just how I feel, "I understand being in a position where you know more than you would like to, wishing you were naive as some of the other people smiling in the room around you." I know too much! I understand too much! I feel and think too much! I had to put it all out of my mind and not think.

Here in Nairobi it is easy to forget what is happening on the "outside." To forget the hungry children crying for invisible food. To forget the lorries packed with people and possessions. To forget large towns, now just charred remains.

Nairobi is a surreal world - it is not like the rest of Kenya. You can move about, you can drive on the roads, you don't need a police escort. Here businesses, restaurants and supermarkets are open. Even the movie theaters are open and showing the latest international hits. Here I have hot showers, cinnamon buns for breakfast, pizza for supper. Maybe I finally awoke from my bad dream. I hope the rest wake up soon.



Larry Clark, with  
refugee children  
at the Londiani  
Catholic Church.

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### ... HOSPITAL continued from page 7

directly by the hospital. Sleep studies have been done in conjunction with an outside firm. Franklin said the new program could generate substantial income for the hospital annually.

• As part of the committee's report, CFO Mike Daiken told board members that the hospital experienced a financial loss for the first quarter of the fiscal year (as expected) but that the loss was \$130,000 less than budget projections. He said the average daily census for acute and swing-bed patients was down slightly from the prior year (9.5 compared to 10.8), and that the average census at the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center was 76 in December, down from 81 for the prior month. Chief of Staff Dr. Robert Buchanan pointed out that declining hospital admissions is a national trend that is likely to continue, in part because a new generation of antibiotics and medications allows many patients that previously had to be admitted to the hospital to be treated either at home or on an outpatient basis. The board briefly discussed the need for the hospital to adapt its planning and operations to take such trends into account.

• Vice President for Operations Frank Leslie reported on three major projects being undertaken by the hospital's Performance Improvement Committee this year that are designed to improve patient

care the services. One project involves increase efforts to reduce the number and severity of falls for residents of the Living Center. While residents falling are always a cause for concern in any nursing facility (and hospital, as well), the center's staff is making fall reduction a major focus in the months ahead. The hospital is also focusing on perfecting its electronic bar-coding system for dispensing patient medications. The hospital has had the computerized system that tracks and verifies the medications given to patients for several years, Leslie said. However, there have been problems with the equipment. He said that PI project will focus on trying new equipment and more in-depth training of staff. Finally a PI committee will look at additional opportunities to improve customer service, both for patients and for physicians who order tests and procedures from the hospital.

• During the Medical Staff report, Buchanan said several physicians are up for renewal of privileges. Based on the recommendation of the Medical Staff, the board approved the reappointments of family physician Thomas Lindsay, MD, emergency room physicians John C. Canon, MD, and Craig C. Moore, MD, as well as part-time pathologist Thomas Crocker, MD. Buchanan also reported that the staff recommends granting additional

• See HOSPITAL page 19



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

### HELP WANTED

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

**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.

**COOK AND DIETARY AIDE AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL.** Various shifts and days available. Must be able to work weekends and be able to read and speak English. Salary depends on experience. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

**EMERGENCY ROOM RN'S NEEDED AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL.** One Full-time and two Part-time positions available. 12 hour night shifts. Shift and weekend differentials. BCLS and ACLS required. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

**RN OR LPN NEEDED AT A PHYSICIANS' OFFICE WITH HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL.** Full-time, Monday-Friday position. Requires experience working in a clinic or physicians' office. Cardiology background preferred. Good communication, organizational, and computer skills a must. Full benefits, or the option to opt out

of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

### **RN'S AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER.**

Full, Part-time and PRN positions available for 12 hour day and night shifts. Excellent wage scale, with shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

### **CNA OR CNA II AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER.**

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

### WORK WANTED

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

**EXPERIENCED FINISH CARPENTER:** Call Alfredo at 828-349-1590

**CLEANING OR RESTAURANT WORK WANTED:** Contact Gloria at 828-371-5806

**LOOKING FOR A HOUSEKEEPER?** Call Manuela at 828-526-9586 Call Janet at 828-399-9693 or 828-526-9709

**EXPERIENCED TRUCK DRIVER SEEKS FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT:** Call Mike at 828-524-4052

You can also call the International Friendship Center to see how we can help! 828-526-9938 x 290

### FOR RENT

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

**1 BEDROOM, 1 BATH** furnished apartment. All utilities included except phone. In Scaly. \$625 a month. Call 526-0079. 1/31

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

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

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

**MAIN ST APT** - available now spacious 1/1 with full kitchen, fully furnished, central heat/air,

small pets OK, \$700 mo. 1st/last+ \$350 deposit. 526-3363

**ON MIRROR LAKE** - Charming 3 bed, 2 bath. Huge sunroom, stone fireplace, 3 decks, canoe, furnished. Available Nov-May. \$1500 a month plus utilities. Call 770-435-0678.

**COTTAGE FOR RENT** - 1BR, 1BA in town @ Chestnut Cottages. Private, screen porch, Heat/AC, FP, extra sleeping loft, furnished or unfurnished. 6 month lease - \$750. monthly plus utilities. Call 526-1684.

### VACATION RENTAL

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

**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](http://www.landofgeorgia.com)

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

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

**BUCK CREEK:** 1600 sq.ft. finished basement, creek front. Handicapped accessible w/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](mailto:ryan@sanctuarync.com) for more information or visit our website at [www.sanctuarync.com/farm\\_for\\_sale6.htm](http://www.sanctuarync.com/farm_for_sale6.htm)

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

**INTOWN** - 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ITEMS FOR SALE

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

**WATERFALL PUMP** - New Berkeley SC9, 1.5hp, 220v, have manual, pumps over 10,000 gallons per hour! Paid \$1100, will sell for \$650. 828-526-8584

**TWIN BUNK BEDS** \$150.00. 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.



# • CLASSIFIEDS •

**SEARS WASHER & DRYER.** Washer 3 years old, dryer, older, Both in great condition. \$350. 526-3647.

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

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

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

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

**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.

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

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

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

**DINING ROOM TABLE & 8 CHAIRS** – (7 w/o leaves) Great for Mountain Home. Nearly New. Good Condition. Leather & Upholstered chairs. \$1,000. Call Linda at 526-1517.

**KING-SIZE HEADBOARD**, \$40; new glass fireplace screen, (still in box,) polished brass finish, fits fireplace opening Height 24 3/4" - 29 3/4". Width 30" to 37 1/2," \$125. Call 828-371-2999

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

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

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

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

**CUSTOM DECK SET** – Painted aluminum

Love seat & club chair with laminated waverly cushions. \$125. Call 526-1078.

**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.

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

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

(www.jcwoodworking.info)

**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

**'98 VW CABRIO.** Black with brand new convertible top. \$4,200 or OBO. Call Lisa at 770-842-3784. 2/7

**2001 YUKON XL**, 1 owner. Garage kept. Excellent condition, 2 Wheel Drive, 17 MPG, New: tires, battery, shocks, belts, 118,000 miles. Meticulously maintained, have all records. \$11,000 obo. 526-5427

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

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

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

## SERVICES

**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 High-

## “Heart of the High Country”

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



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

lands. 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..

## ... PARKING continued from page 10

vided?" he asked. "Do we have a parking problem, or is there enough parking for everyone if you're willing to walk?"

He said he counted empty public parking spaces on Pine and Fifth streets on Friday, July 6, and there were 56 empty spots.

Board Chairman Griffin Bell said it all depends on what side of town you're on. He said the west side doesn't have as much public parking as elsewhere in town.

Taylor said it all depends on the days and time of year. "Usually, if you're willing to park one street over there is parking, but everyone wants to pull up and get out right in front of the business they want to go to."

Board member Thomas Craig said the town has made incremental adjustments to its overall parking regulations over the years but hasn't done a "wholesale" approach.

"Are the requirements still relevant? When the fire marshal determines the number of seats it's a public safety issue. The number of parking spots isn't a public safety issue. The town has provided public parking over the years and it's time we took another look at it," he said.

In the end, the board agreed to request the Town Board to initiate an impartial, town-wide parking and traffic study. It also agreed to have Cooley draft two amendments to the parking ordinance – one to address public space usage and one to address dual-use.

To address updating the Land Use Plan, the board is having two meetings a month beginning on Feb. 11 at 5 p.m. and then at the regular meeting Feb. 25 at 5 p.m.

The board asked Cooley to have the draft amendments ready for the Feb. 11 meeting so the Planning Board can make it's recommendation to the Town Board at its Feb. 20 meeting.

"This should give us enough time," said Craig. "With the season approaching, we need to get this done so these businesses have an answer."



## • 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 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..

## Ruby Cinemas

Hwy. 441, Franklin • 524-2076

### Feb. 17

JUNO rated PG-13

Fri: (4:05), 7:05, 9:05

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

Mon – Thurs: (4:05), 7:05

RAMBO rated R

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

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

Mon – Thurs: (4:15), 7:15

CLOVERFIELD rated PG-13

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

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

Mon – Thurs: (4:10), 7:10

MAD MONEY rated PG-13

Fri: 7

Sat & Sun: (2), 7

Mon – Thurs: 7

THE BUCKET LIST rated PG-13

Fri: (4), 9

Sat & Sun: (4), 9

Mon – Thurs: (4)

## Becky Schilling and Madeleine Davis to appear in ITC LIVE!



Becky Schilling



Madeleine Davis

**Madeleine Davis and Becky Schilling, two favorite actresses of Highlands' theatre-going audiences, appear in ITC LIVE! opening Friday, February 8 at the Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main. This is Instant Theatre Company's fourth improv show, and under Jillian Burfetes lively direction it promises to be a romp. ITC LIVE! will play February 8-9, 15-16, 22-23 at 8 p.m. at the ITC's Studio on Main at 310 Oak Square, Main Street, Highlands. For reservations please call the box office at 828-342-9197. Tickets are \$20. The show contains some mature content.**

- 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 & Friday, Jan. 30 & 31

- HCP's Death by Chocolate fundraiser performance for the Summit Charter School at the Sapphire Valley Community Center at 6:30 p.m., Thursday and Friday. Wine, dine and solve the crime. Tickets are selling fast. \$55. Call 828-743-6100 for reservations. Proceeds will help 8<sup>th</sup> grade students fund their trip to Washington, D.C.

### 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. Adults are \$6 and children are \$4.

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

ested. 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.

### Thursday, Feb. 7

- Super Fives Rotary Bingo will be on Thursday, Feb. 7 at the Highlands Community Building from 6:30-8:30 .pm. Super Fives features a final Super Bingo game prize of \$500 for a full card Bingo in 55 number calls or less - \$250 if more than 55 calls.

### Friday, Feb. 8

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

### Saturday, Feb. 9

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

### 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.

### Friday, Feb. 15

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

### Saturday, Feb. 16

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

- Hot Dog Supper & Blue Grass Music Benefit at the Satolah Fire Dept at 5 p.m. Benefit for Junior and Margie Crowe. Featuring Curtis Blackwall & the Dixie Bluegrass Boys and The Foxfire Boys. Raffle tickets on sale for an antique rifle (Sears Roebuck 1st edition single-shot), a load of crusher-run gravel, or a \$50 gas certificate from the Clayton Food Mart (old Twenty-Penny.) Cakes and homemade goodies also for sale.

### 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.

### Friday, Feb. 22

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

### Saturday, Feb. 23

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

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

### Monday & Tuesday, Feb. 25-26

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



## ... HOSPITAL continued from page 15

privileges to the two new general surgeons that will expand the range of procedures that can be done in the hospital's operating rooms. He said the staff agreed with general surgeons Augustus F. Dozier, MD, and William J. Noell, Jr. MD, that there are additional procedures that are within the capability of what can be handled safely by the surgical and nursing teams currently in place. The board approved the recommendation to add those procedures.

• In his report, President and CEO Ken Shull reminded the board that a survey team from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations will soon be visiting the hospital as part of its three-year reaccreditation review.

Shull also reported that the hospital is making a major push to improve the

quality of its food service. It has hired area chef and former restaurant owner David Sanborn to manage the hospital's kitchen (until recently Sanborn owned and managed Sid and Charlie's in Cashiers), and is adding some new equipment in the kitchen, the gift of a recent patient and donor who wanted to help the hospital upgrade its food.

The hospital's laboratory did very well during its recent unannounced review by a surveyor from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, Shull told the board. The lab is surveyed by JCAHO every two years. He praised the lab staff for their continuing efforts to keep standards high.

He also reported that family physician Patti B. Wheeler, MD and her part-time associate P. Richard Olson, MD, will

be moving off campus to new offices on Hicks Road in Highlands. Dr. Wheeler remains on staff at the hospital and the hospital has offered to assist Dr. Wheeler in finding any additional equipment she may need, maintain electronic and computer connections with the hospital, and making the transition as smooth as possible.

• During his report, Foundation Executive director Russell Harris gave a re-

cap of fundraising last year, saying the Foundation had conducted two appeals for the general fund. Some 525 donors contributed to those drives, raising nearly half a million dollars, including \$140,000 for capital projects. Harris said the foundation is currently embarking on a new program that will recognize those donors who have named the hospital in their wills and to encourage others to join them.

## ... SCHOOL BOARD continued from page 13

Crafts Festival to promote the arts and community involvement," Adams said. The MMS PTO would be requesting donations and would be auctioning off the items complete with the donated talents of a professional auctioneer.

The date is tentatively set for Thursday, May 15, 2008, but Adams noted that there is a possibility of moving it to Saturday, May 17, in anticipation of a better turnout over the weekend. The board unanimously agreed to go ahead with the fundraiser.

Brigman then asked the board to approve a Substance Abuse Task Force survey that is being coordinated by Marci Holland. The survey would be distributed this spring among students in grades 8-11, and the data will be used to develop programs for preventative measures.

Swank suggested that the data be combined with the annual surveys that are conducted by the Macon County Health Department. Board Member Susie McCoy made a motion to accept the survey, and Swank seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Finance Directory Betty Waldroop informed the Board that the yearly audit by Dixon Hughes had cost \$33,000 for the 2006-2007 school year, and that the quote for the current school year's audit from Dixon Hughes was \$40,500. Board Member Tommy Baldwin said that the state recommends that school boards only use the same company for audits for three consecutive years. "I'd like to see it put out for bid," Baldwin said.

This prompted some discussion amongst Board Members. Swank mentioned that it is hard to find local companies to do these types of audits, so the Board would probably have to look to bigger cities like Winston-Salem and Greensboro to find a company other than Dixon Hughes.

Board member Tommy Cabe suggested that since they already had a quote from

Dixon Hughes for the upcoming audit, the Board could use the same company for now and then put it out for bid for the next

• See SCHOOL BOARD page 22

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## ... FUNDING continued from page 5

crease four percent annually; that the public school building capital fund revenues from the state would remain at \$240,000 annually; and that lottery funds would remain at \$212,000 annually.

The funding would be for capital projects only with no consideration for operational costs or other county increases which may occur.

"Even with the additional funding for phases one and two, by 2015-2016 we will have serviced much of our debt and will be close to where we are now which is about \$3.5 million in debt," she said.

Commissioner Jim Davis said had the Land Transfer Tax passed it could have funded all of this. "Regardless, we'll still have the lowest tax rate in the state."

### Highlands Transfer Station

Also discussed at the work session was the interlocal agreement the county hopes to enter into with the Town of Highlands concerning the transfer station upgrades at the land fill on Rich Gap Road.

County Manager Jack Horton said after he and Sanitation Director Chris Stahl met with Highlands Town Administrator Richard Betz and Town Engineer Lamar Nix last week, he feels an agreement can be reached.

"That want a 10-year memorandum of understanding obligating each side to use of the landfill and agreements made," said Horton. "If either side renigs, they are given credit for the first year of operations and they are responsible for a percentage of a portion of construction costs of the project. Basically we want a long enough time to recoup the county's investment."

He said Highlands wants to access the transfer station Saturdays and Sundays

• See FUNDING page 21

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## • BUSINESS NEWS •

### Condé Nast Johansens Luxury Travel Guide selects Old Edwards Inn and Spa 'Most Excellent Inn' in the USA & Canada for 2008

Condé Nast Johansens, the international luxury hotel guide publisher of *Recommended Hotels, Inns, Resorts & Spas - The Americas, Atlantic, Caribbean & Pacific*, has chosen Old Edwards Inn and Spa for their 2008 Awards for Excellence as "Most Excellent Inn" in the USA & Canada.

"This is a great tribute to the hard work and dedication of our entire staff to making Old Edwards Inn and Spa a world-class destination," said Mario Gomes, CEO of the Old Edwards Hospitality Group. "We are thrilled to receive this honor and know it is a reflection of our ongoing commitment to superlative service."

The winning hotels and resorts were selected in 25 categories, after being voted for by readers of the Guide, hotel guests and the Condé Nast Johansens inspection team.

The Condé Nast Johansens Guides are published for discerning travelers who seek top-quality facilities and services. The Guides are the most comprehensive illustrated reference guides to independently owned hotels, inns, resorts, spas and conference facilities throughout the Americas, Great Britain and Europe, and the only guide books to carry the prestigious and widely-recognized Condé Nast seal of approval.

Consumers can purchase Condé Nast Johansens Guides at leading bookstores and via the online bookstore at [www.johansens.com](http://www.johansens.com).

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Old Edwards Inn and Spa is located at 445 Main Street, Highlands, NC 28741, 828-526-8008 or 866-526-8008. Old Edwards Hospitality Group, LLC, founded in 2003, includes Old Edwards Inn and Spa, Madison's Restaurant and Wine Garden, The Farm special events facility, Acorns retail shop, Rib Shack, and The Laundry and Dry Cleaners at Old Edwards Inn. For more information, call 866-526-8008 or visit [www.oldedwardsinn.com](http://www.oldedwardsinn.com).



Old Edwards Inn and Spa, including The Lodge at Old Edwards Inn, are AAA-Four Diamond award winners. Old Edwards Inn and Spa is also a member of the National Trust Historic Hotels of America, Zagat-rated for 2008 and a member of Boutique-the newest brand within Preferred Hotel Group. The property is a Recommended Hotel in Condé Nast Johansens *Recommended Hotels, Inns, Resorts & Spas* since 2005, and won the Award for Excellence for Most Excellent Inn in the USA & Canada in 2008. Madison's Restaurant and Wine Garden received *Wine Spectator's* Award of Excellence in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

the landfill. However, tipping fees will be accessed for Construction & Debris waste and for Highlands' commercial garbage. "They say they can separate out commercial garbage from residential garbage," said Horton. "Once we figure that amount out, we will bill the town once a month based on tonnage." No decisions were made, and the work session was continued to Wednesday, Feb. 6 at 6 p.m. in the board room.

— Kim Lewicki

### ... FUNDING continued from page 20

and understands that its crew has to undergo state certification first. He said if the town and county enter into a interlocal agreement at the Feb. 11 county commission meeting, the county can borrow the \$1 million needed to fund its portion of the project and get started. "Hopefully we will be completed in three months, if not we will have to close the landfill June 30 until

### ... NET continued from page 1

Cashiers are considered one but they're two different cities in two different counties.

"It's important that we strengthen these bonds for both the public's and our officers' safety," he said. "When we have the ability and the authority granted through the mutual aid agreement we can better serve the public and assist each other."

Both towns are in the 30<sup>th</sup> judicial district and will be talking to the legislature to see if magistrates in both counties can enter into a cooperative agreement, too. As it stands now, even with the mutual aid agreement, arrests made by a Jackson County officer have to be handled by the Jackson County magistrate in Sylva and arrests made by the Highlands police have to be handled by the Macon County magistrate in Highlands. However, they can use each other's departments and facilities, if needed.

"If a Jackson County deputy picks someone up for DWI close to the Macon County line, it is more advantageous for him to come to the Highlands' magistrate office to conduct the intoxilyzer test rather

it's ready."

Highlands' portion is expected to cost between \$400,000 and \$475,000.

As has been the practice in the past, no one will be charged a tipping fee at the landfill in Franklin for residential garbage, but everyone even J&B Disposal, will be charged a transfer fee to cover the costs of hauling the waste down the mountain to

than driving all the way back to Sylva," said Highlands Magistrate Pat Taylor. "The quicker the process the more accurate the reading which is the reason we had an intoxilyzer installed here in Highlands instead of driving 40 minutes to Franklin."

With much of what's considered Highlands outside the town limits the Highlands Police Department entered into a mutual aid agreement with the Macon County Sheriff's Department some time ago.

The agreements both with Jackson and Macon counties means a law enforcement presence will always be evident, said Harrell.

Ashe said Jackson County has a mutual aid agreement with 16 counties in Western North Carolina.

Even without a formal mutual aid agreement, state statutes allows neighboring counties to assist each other in crisis situations.

"This mutual aid agreement makes assistance from Jackson County readily available and legal," said Harrell.

— Kim Lewicki

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## ... LETTERS continued from page 2

own are condemned to everlasting torment?" They weren't. There was an elaborate system of sacrifices and ceremonies practiced in a small portion of scripture known as The Old Testament. This system was directed by God for the atonement of man's sin. God used two chapters in Genesis to record creation but used 50 chapters (13 in Exodus; 18 in Leviticus; 13 in Numbers; 2 in Deuteronomy; 4 in Hebrews) to explain the construction of the Tabernacle, its features, furniture, and the services to be held there.

God's instructions for the task were detailed and rich in symbolism. They were detailed because He wanted man to have a path to forgiveness, and rich in symbolism because it told of God's love and mercy.

What of Hell? Hell was not intended for man but for Satan and the other fallen angels. Hell is a terrible place, for sure, but God doesn't send anyone there. As C. S. Lewis once said, "There are only two types of people in the end; those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, in the end, 'Thy will be done.' All that are in Hell, chose it." God respects our decisions even when He disagrees with them.

When Ms. Brugger said that "Mr. Chastain seems to think the idea that the universe is for experience is a horrible concept because it means a 'learning ex-

perience without end,' I for one would rather have a perpetually growing and expanding awareness than a static eternity spent in an unchanging heaven."

First of all, I was merely pointing out the apparent contradiction in the Oneness belief that God would eventually awaken, and the belief that God must experience an infinite amount of experiences before awakening. Secondly, this description of Heaven is neither appealing nor accurate. What will Heaven really be like? In Heaven we will laugh (Luke 6:21), there will be feasts (Revelation 19:9) of the finest quality (Isaiah 25:6), we will also grow in knowledge (Ephesians 2:6). Jonathan Edwards said, "how soon do earthly lovers come to an end of their discoveries of each other's beauty; how soon do they see all there is to be seen! But in Heaven there is eternal progress with new beauties always being discovered."

Imagine discussing science with Isaac Newton or Thomas Edison; mathematics with Pascal; literature with C. S. Lewis or J. R. R. Tolkien; the power of fiction with Victor Hugo, Dostoyevsky, or Tolstoy; God's attributes with A. W. Tozer; theology with Augustine or Aquinas. Who said Heaven would be boring? No pain, death, separation, or sorrow sounds pretty good to me. Personally, I look forward to seeing loved ones who have gone on

and being able to wrap my arms around them and never have to let go again.

Christ once asked his disciples, "Whom say ye that I am?" (Matthew 16:15). C. S. Lewis said there were only three answers to that question that are

open to us: Liar, Lunatic, or Lord. I submit to you that this is the most important question you will ever answer. Who do you say He is?

Waylon Chastain  
Highlands

## ... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 14

the ocean on the other side. The cooking is done in water retrieved miles away using only neck muscles to support the weight.

Disease is now synonymous with poverty. In other words, most of the disease is preventable or treatable with medication that can be bought. To further understand how one might go about buying medication, see the definition of poverty.

And a broken heart is now described as a little girl with a huge, brighter-than-life smile on her face walking up to the car of her teacher. A teacher who then turns to us and informs us that her mother is in the morgue next door to the school which she will be walking to for hours in the morning. To further understand the causes of the mother's death, see the definition of disease.

As I absorbed the experiences that dwell in my new filing-system-of-life, three words and their new definitions eclipsed all the rest – faith, hope, and love.

Faith is now defined as a church packed to the rafters with people who came for one thing: to experience the living Christ who brings good news to the poor, lifts up the broken hearted, release to the captive, and proclaims a year of the Lord's salvation.

Hope is a young anthropologist visiting from the United States, meeting a Haitian Episcopal priest in Cange (the poorest part of Haiti), who periodically goes back to the United States to build relationships, get a Harvard medical degree, and consistently returns to his new home in Haiti to systematically eradicate disease one person at a time (for a clearer definition read the book Mountains Beyond Mountains to find

out how Partners in Health is saving the worlds in Haiti, Peru, Rwanda and Russia).

Love is being offered the only cold beer for miles, eating fried bananas and watching the sun go down with three soft spoken young men who want nothing more than to get an education and come back to "help my people."

If you ever wonder what the face of Christ looks like, you can glean it from the words of your favorite preacher, imagine it from the pages of scripture, or feel it in worship and praise. Or you can come face to face with Christ by being with the poor. If you choose the latter, be ready to have a whole new vocabulary, a whole new group of friends, and a broken heart. A heart broken wide open to a faith, a hope, and a love that you never knew existed. This is "a Haitian heart."

The Good News is that anyone can possess this heart. You don't even have to go to Haiti. The poor are right here in this community. Allow yourself to see the beauty of God through their eyes. In that moment you will see the Kingdom of God. You will feel the suffering of the world, and best of all, you will see the solution. It's simple.

All of us who are blessed enough to read this article have received the gifts that will solve poverty. Those gifts are a fusion of education and health care in a safe environment. However, there is the primary gift that makes it all possible, you most certainly have some in your pocket, and it is easily given. For a clearer definition see the definition of money. To give is to be the solution to poverty.

*Tout mon se mon.* [A Creole proverb which summarizes Matthew 25].

## ... SCHOOL BOARD continued from page 19

school year's audit. Baldwin disagreed, stating that he liked to do what the state recommended.

Attorney John Henning added that while he understood where Baldwin was coming from, there was no law that stated that the School Board had to change companies every three years, and that if the state wanted everyone to do so it would be really easy for them to enact a law requiring such a practice.

Cabe made a motion to keep Dixon Hughes for the current year's audit, and to

put the account up for bid for the next year. McCoy seconded the motion, and it passed with opposition from Baldwin alone.

Brigman ended the meeting with a statement of appreciation to the local florists for upcoming deliveries to schools on Valentine's Day. He asked that anyone making deliveries to schools first contact the main office to find out which items are permissible to be delivered to schools, and what the delivery process is.

The next BOE meeting is Monday, Feb. 25.

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# HIGHLANDS POLICE, FIRE & MACON COUNTY SHERIFF REPORTS

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the weeks of Jan. 23-29. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Jan. 23

• At 12:40 p.m., a motorist on N.C. 106 and Arnold Road was cited for speeding 50 mph in a 35 zone..

Jan. 24

• At 7:44 a.m., a motorist at Fifth and Main streets was cited for speeding 43 mph in a 20 zone.

• At 9:25 a.m., a motorist at N.C. 106 and Arnold Road was cited for speeding 50 mph in a 35 zone.

• At 9:55 a.m., a motorist at N.C. 106 and Arnold Road was cited for speeding 51 mph in a 35 zone.

Jan. 26

• At 8:55 p.m., officers responded to a call of drunk, disruptive behavior at a gathering at the Highlands Community Center. Renee Schaffer, 30, of Franklin, was arrested for drunk and disorderly conduct for of fighting.

Jan. 28

• At 8:08 p.m., a motorist at N. 4th Street and Foreman Road was cited for speeding 40 mph in a 25 zone.

• At 9:20 p.m., a motorist at N. 4th Street and Foreman Road was cited for speeding 45 mph in a 25 zone and for driving with an expired registration.

• At 11:58 a.m., officers issued a criminal summons to a person at S. 4th Street.

• During the week officers issued 14 warning tickets.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Jan 23-30

Jan. 23

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call Main Street.

Jan. 25

• The dept. provided mutual aid to Scaly-Sky Valley but the call was cancelled.

Jan. 26

• The dept. responded to a call of smoke from an ash dump at a residence on Brushy Face. The fire was extinguished.

Jan. 27

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Clubhouse Trail. The vic-

tim was transported to the hospital.

Jan. 28

• The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers for a structure fire, but the call was cancelled en route.

Jan. 29

• The dept. responded to a call of smoke in the distance but it was a controlled burn off N.C. 106.

Jan. 30

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

The following is the Macon County Sheriff Dept. log entries for the Highlands Township for the week of Jan 23-30.

Jan. 22

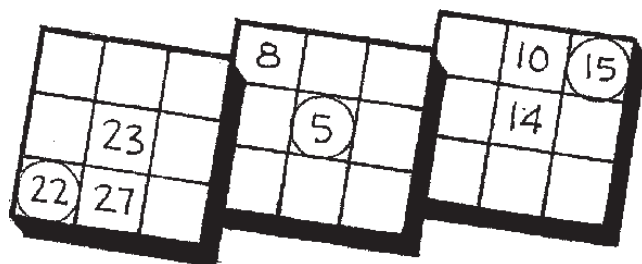
• At 5:07 p.m., deputies responded to an alarm activation at a home on Tillman Trail. All was secure.

Jan. 28

• Deputies are investigating the theft of a subdivision sign at Sassafrass Gap and Hidden Springs. The sandblasted sign is valued at \$300.

## • FUN & GAMES •

### PseudoCube®



#BZ4C • Level of Difficulty • Easy

#### 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.

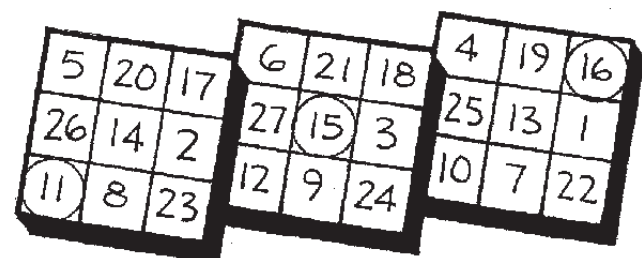
#### THE CHALLENGE:

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](mailto:pseudocube8@aol.com)

Solution to #AN2E in Jan. 24 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 "Give Shape To"

Across

1. Jupiter moon (2)
2. Pin used to open rope strands (3)
3. Pronoun (masc.) (2)
4. Burnt wood residue (3)
5. Charged atom (3)

Down

6. Daniel in the lion's \_\_\_\_ (3)
7. Yes! (Sp.) (2)
8. Expires (4)
9. Bob the head (3)
10. Geologic age (3)

A				D				H
	<sup>6</sup> D		<sup>1</sup> I			<sup>7</sup>	A	
		O			<sup>2</sup> F	I	<sup>8</sup>	<sup>9</sup>
D		<sup>3</sup>	E		A	F		O
	<sup>4</sup> A			<sup>5</sup> I			E	
I		E	F		D			A
<sup>10</sup>		I			N	O		
	H		S				N	
N				E				I

Solution to Jan. 24 puzzle

C	I	S	L	H	M	E	D	A
E	H	A	D	I	C	M	S	L
L	D	M	S	A	E	I	H	C
M	C	E	H	S	A	D	L	I
S	L	I	C	E	D	H	A	M
D	A	H	M	L	I	S	C	E
I	E	L	A	D	S	C	M	H
H	S	C	I	M	L	A	E	D
A	M	D	E	C	H	L	I	S



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## Waterfalls & Day Trips

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# 2008 Highlands Map



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