

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 6, Number 29

PDF Version – www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Important Notice

• Telephone service to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and the Fidelia Eckerd Center will be briefly interrupted on Thursday evening around 7 p.m., while improvements are being implemented by Verizon. Callers to the hospital will not be able to get through for approximately 15 minutes during the conversion. However, special outgoing lines will be operational during the outage, in case of an emergency. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause to family members trying to reach patients. As always, anyone with a medical emergency should call 911, not the hospital directly

On-going

• Activities for children and families each day of the week at the Nature Center.

• The Zahner Conservation Lecture Series is held each Thursday at 7p.m. at the Highlands Nature Center. For a schedule, visit www.wcu.edu/hbs.

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

Mondays & Wednesdays

• Pilates Classes Level 1 of Jane Woodruff at the hospital at 4 p.m. \$10 per class. Call 526-5852.

Friday & Saturday

• Live music at The Rib Shack every Friday and Saturday night from 8-11 p.m.

Friday-Sunday

• At Skyline Lodge & Restaurant. Hal Philips at the piano, 7-9 p.m. Flat Mountain Road. 526-2121.

Saturdays

• Live music at Cyprus Restaurant at 9:30 p.m.

Sundays

• Old-fashioned hymn-sing at the Little Church of the Willdwood at 7 p.m. Call Kay Ward at 743-5009 for more information. Dress is casual.

Thurs.-Sun., through July 20

• At Highlands Playhouse, "On Golden Pond." For tickets call 828-526-2695.

Thurs.-Sat., July 17-19

• "The Best of Parallel Lives," at The Instant Theatre Company on Main Street. The comedy hit of the season returns with your favorites. For reservations call the ITC Box Office at 828-342-9197.

Friday-Saturday, July 18-19

• At the Hen House at Main and Fifth streets, Richie Watts of The Good Earth Pottery will be signing his pottery 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Come see the new "Highlands" pattern named in honor of The Hen House, the largest gallery of The Good Earth Pottery in the USA.

Friday-Sunday, July 18-20

• At Acorn's on Main Street, two trunk shows: a Bijoux de Mer Jewelry Trunk Show and a William Yeoward Crystal Trunk Show.

Friday, July 18

• Mountain Music in Highlands School old gym featuring, Appalachian Blue-

grass and High Mountain Squares. Square dancing and clogging will entertain and involve audiences beginning at 6:45 P.M. Concerts will run between 7:30 and 9. Free.

• Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival: Edoardo Catemario, guitarist and The Vega String Quartet; 7:30 at PAC. Call 526-9060.

Saturday-Sunday, July 19-20

• The Summer Colors Fine Art Show at the Rec Park from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Featuring more than 50 regional artists.

Saturday, July 19

• "Portraits and Figures" exhibition will be held at The Bascom. An opening reception will be held July 19 from 5 to 7 p.m. Admission is free. Call 526-4949.

• At Scudder's Gallery on Main Street an auction at 11 a.m.

• At Cyrano's Book Shop on Main Street, Roberts & Plimpton will be signing "God's Invitation to More" from noon to 2 p.m. and M.L. Malcolm will sign "Silent Liew and Deadly Deceptions" from 2:30-4:30 p.m.

• Fisher Garden Tour atop Sagee Woods. Carpools leave from Pine Street Gazebo hourly 9:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and proceeds fund the Community School in Cange, Haiti. Rain or shine.

Sunday, July 20

• At First Presbyterian Church, Kirkin of the Tartans at 11 a.m. followed by a luncheon at First Baptist Church featuring Dr. Elizabeth Kiss, president of Agnes Scott University.

• Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival: Edoardo Catemario, guitarist and The Vega String Quartet; 5 p.m. at PAC. Call 526-9060.

• At Cyrano's Book Shop on Main Street, Bill L Booz III will be signing "Seasons and colors of the Appalachian Mountains" from 2-4 p.m.

• At ITC, magician, author, Diana S. Zimmerman will be signing "Kandide and the Secret Mists" from 1-3 p.m. at ITC where the event will include a reading from the book, a book signing and a magic show. Cost is \$5 for children, \$10 for adults.

• "Singles Meeting Singles" gathering from adults ages 40-70, 5:30 at a residence in Whiteside Cove. Call Nancy at 787-1515.

Tuesday, July 22

• At PAC, downstairs, an Alfred Hitchcock movie "The Lodger" at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments begin at 7 p.m. If there is interest "Sabotage" can also be shown.

Wednesday, July 23

• At Scudders Gallery on Main Street, an auction of a Remington statue "The Rattlesnake" at 9:30 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the Highlands Playhouse.

• Free Interlude concert at the First Presbyterian Church held at 2 p.m. Featuring, Gerald Carper, organist on the church's Wicks Pipe Organ.

New Town Hall taking shape

Two estimates presented at Wednesday night's Town Board meeting, put the price tag for the new Town Hall complex between \$4.3 million and \$5.1 million.

"The site costs surprised us," said Mitch Sorin with Sorin & Fisher Architects. "It depends on how much rock runs through it."

Between the two estimates, Sorin & Fisher said the job could come in between \$175 per sq. ft and \$225 per sq. ft. "We could take 10% out of the cost by trimming here and there, but beyond that would mean a redesign and a reduction of square footage."

The 17,980 sq. ft. complex

would include space for town offices and board room, police department offices, a Visitor Center on the lower level, 71 parking spaces on site and the on street. A possible clock tower and water feature would cost extra.

John Fisher said the project came in higher than first anticipated but the construction industry has had a 20% increase since January with material costs escalating due to transportation costs related to the fuel industry.

Building green was discussed so commissioners requested a "green" cost scenario next time they meet with the architects.

A blooming grand time



Hundreds converged on Highlands July 8-12 for The Bascoms 10th annual Mountains in Bloom, a four-day nature-themed festival designed to raise money for the art center. The flower show drew dozens of entries in two divisions: Artistic and Horticultural. In the Artistic Division, there were 48 entries in eight classes, and in the Horticulture Division, there were 129 entries in 13 classes.

Mental health on front burner

At Monday night's county commission meeting, the board took the first steps toward providing comprehensive mental health care for the citizens of Macon County.

After hearing a presentation from the Mental Health Taskforce on the state of mental health services in the county, commissioners granted the taskforce's request for \$6,000 for initial funding.

County Manager Jack Horton said the necessary budget adjustment will be made to the 2008-2009

budget to handle the expense.

"When the lack of services affects families, when a mother is crying for needed services, something needs to be done," said Chairman Charlie Leatherman.

In January, the Macon County Commission formed a mental health taskforce and charged its members to assess the state of mental health services in the county and to make recommendation for service improvements.

• See MENTAL HEALTH page 16

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Political signs source of controversy

A battle is heating up over alleged illegal political signs and an alleged illegal closed session between town officials and residents.

On May 12 the Rogers/deVile family of 165 N. 1st Street was notified by Code Enforcement Officer Josh Ward that the Obama logo sign hanging from their upper balcony was in violation.

As per town ordinance, Code of Ordinances, Article 4500, Section 404.1 (H) political signs can't exceed 16 square feet in surface area. The logo sign was 64 sq. ft. The family was ordered to remove or replace the sign immediately upon receipt of the letter or a civil penalty would be assessed per day until corrected.

Though the logo sign was hung on March 17, the Rogers/deVile family said they didn't hear a "peep" from the town until May 12, after someone complained.

"As soon as we were made aware of the limitations on political signs, we immediately took steps to be in compliance," said Anne deVile. "It was in violation of the political sign ordinance because it exceeded 16 square feet, but we want

• See POLITICAL page 14

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
75-59°F	78-60°F	80-61°F

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •

• LETTERS •

In Memory Of "G-540"

North Carolina Highway Patrolman
David Shawn Blanton, Jr.
January 19, 1984 - June 17, 2008

By Sheriff Robert L. Holland
Macon County, North Carolina

During the past few days I have found myself often thinking about the tragedy surrounding the death of one of our own, NC Trooper David Shawn Blanton Jr. and imagining the events that occurred during that dark night in nearby Haywood County. Still, even today, I find myself deeply saddened at not only the loss of a brother law enforcement officer but of a young man in his prime.

While pondering the chain of events in my mind, each time I conclude by thanking God that such a tragic event did not come any closer to home. It is shameful that such a young Trooper who had a brand new baby boy has had his entire life and career stolen from him. How sad it is to know that the actions of another, has robbed him of the opportunity to see his son grow and the chance to share each and every moment through the years with his young wife. Instead, a little boy will grow up and learn how his father was a brave officer and how he paid the ultimate sacrifice protecting and serving his community.

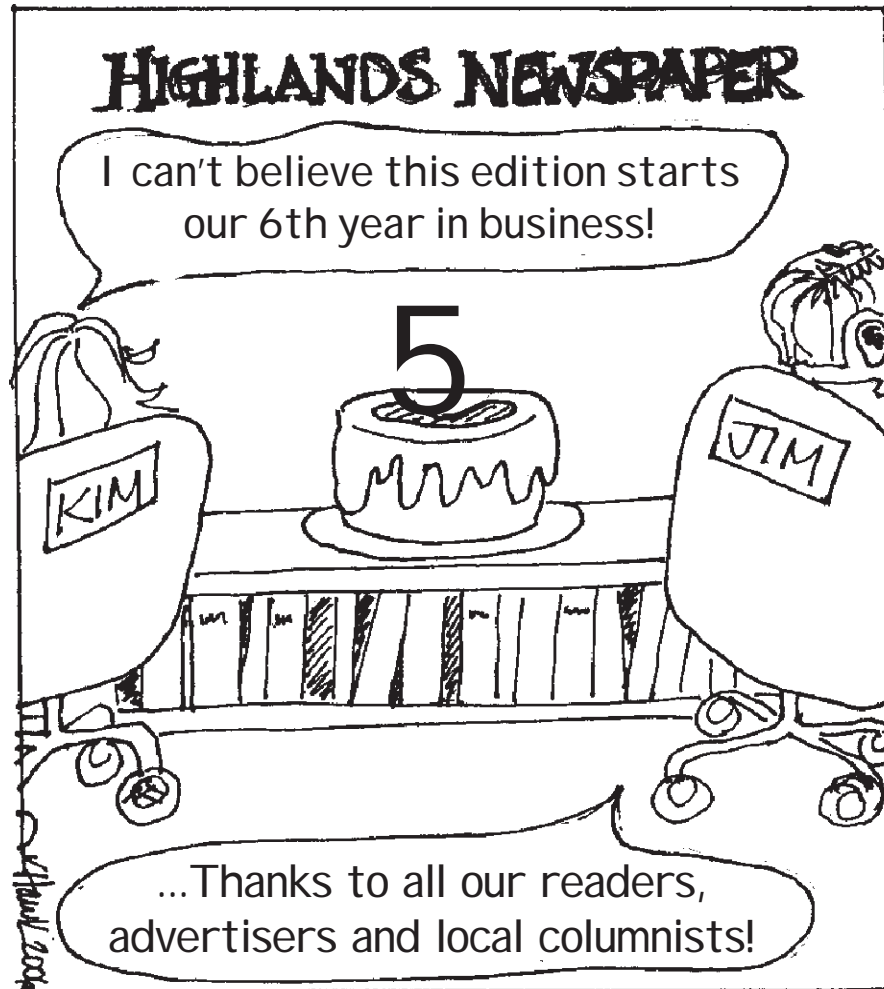
While attending his funeral with a number of my deputies, I listened to Trooper Blanton's minister describe "Trooper Blanton as a hero not because he died in the line of duty, but instead, because of how Trooper Blanton lived his life." What a wonderful tribute for anyone to be remembered by. I heard his friends describe him as the type of person that, not only his son could look up to, but all of us. Trooper J.P. Henderson, told those attending his partner's funeral that his friend always had a smile with a "giggle" that was indescribable and was a man who never met a stranger that was always willing to help others.

Trooper Blanton will also be remembered as the first member of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians to serve with the North Carolina Highway Patrol.

To those that cared:

While thinking about the situation of that night, I have found myself being overwhelmingly grateful that citizens rushed to his side and attempted to render aid to the young Trooper. I thank God

• See FORUM page 15



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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An Open Letter to the Highlands Town Board

Dear Gentlemen and Dr. Patterson:

As business owners in town and twenty-two year residents of the Highlands Township, we want to express our concerns regarding your pending decision to provide town water and sewer plus financial support to the Shortoff Woods affordable housing development. First of all, our water supply is a precious commodity and in short supply. According to the United States Geological Survey from the US Department of the Interior, the Highlands Plateau is in severe hydrologic drought. Our rain levels have been far below normal for the past three years and the water table has lowered. With changing climate conditions, no one knows how long these conditions will continue. In addition, how do you justify giving town water to a "for profit" company while denying it to others outside the town limits who would like water and sewer for their own use? Do you not open up a flood gate of requests for water and sewer? It would be a shame to compromise the integrity of our community so people can start their own rental business.

Secondly, we understand from the mayor's recent column in the newspaper that the town's sewer plant has the capacity to handle double what it handles today. It is our understanding that the main reason for the expansion of the sewer plant a number of years ago was to protect our water supply which comes from Lake Sequoyah. There are still many homes around the upstream Cullasaja River, Mirror Lake, and Lake Sequoyah that are not connected to the sewer system. How tragic it would be if sewer capacity for those homes were needed because of septic failures, but was not available. The mayor's answer to adding others onto the sewer system is to vote increased taxes. If property owners in the town limits need the sewer system, do you think it would be fair for them to pay a tax increase plus tap-on fees while the Housing Project only pays tap-on fees and no taxes to the Town?

Third, the corner of Highway 64 East and Buck Creek Road is already a dangerous intersection where accidents have already occurred and near misses happen every day. As one of the two primary routes to Franklin plus the location of the recycling center, this intersection gets an enormous amount of

• See LETTERS page 26

• OBITUARY •

Mary Virginia Crunkleton Hayes

Mary Virginia Crunkleton Hayes died on July 7, 2008 in Tamarac, FL. Mary was born in Highlands, NC on July 1, 1931 to Ralph and Virginia Crunkleton. She is survived by two sisters, Mildred Kessler and Lydia Langell. Mary graduated from Highlands High School in 1949. She moved to Staten Island, NY in 1950.

She is survived by her husband Frank J. Hayes, Jr. In addition to her husband of 55 years, she is survived by two sons, Frank J. Hayes, III and John Thomas and two daughters, Kathleen Ann Hayes Castella and Mary Eileen Hayes Brooks. She is survived by 12 grandchildren and preceded in death by a granddaughter Ann Marie Castella. Mary was an avid bingo player and enjoyed bowling and playing golf. She enjoyed shopping as well. She was a member of the Knights of Columbus Columbietts and of the Red Hat Society. She was retired from Staten Island University Hospital as a head cashier.

Funeral services was held Saturday, July 12, 2008 at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church, with Father Dean Cesa officiating. Burial was in Miller Cemetery. In lieu of flowers any donations to the Highlands Biological Center in the name of Mary Crunkleton Hayes would be appreciated.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home was in charge of local arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

• MILESTONE •

Reed named University Marshal at UNC-Greensboro

Jackie Reed, Highlands School Class of 2006, daughter of Morris and Cindy Reed, of Highlands, was inducted in UNC-Greensboro University Marshals on Sunday, April 13.

The University Marshals is an honor and service organization established at UNC-G in 1910. The primary goal is to recognize academic excellence among undergraduate students at UNC-G. They traditionallly serve at

the University Commencement exercised in December and May, the Chancellor's New Student Convocation i Sugust and Founder's Day in October. They are selected from an elite group f students requiring the completion of at least 30 semester hours at UNC-G and a cumulative grade point average of 3.65 or higher.

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Thou shalt not dither

I just learned I have spent the last 40 years of my life illegally dithering. Wait, just in case you've been living on Mars...or Otto...or Climax, Georgia, let me tell you about the dither word.

Merriam-Webster Dictionary describes the word in two forms, as an intransitive verb and a noun. It means to shiver or tremble, to act nervously or indecisively. It also means to vacillate, to be in a highly nervous, excited or agitated state of excitement and confusion, like when a guy comes home at 3 a.m. with his underwear on backwards.

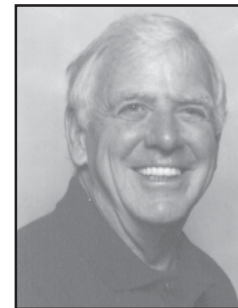
Most of my illegal dithering occurs while playing a card game called Bridge. This game is unmercifully humbling and requires great concentration, dedication and skill to be a winner. This is why I am continuously in last place. I have the attention span of a bear cub and I'm constantly eyeing the candy on the front counter. The only thing I have going for me is my illegal dithering.

My bridge instructor has a 12-inch index finger that he wags in my face when I am caught illegally dithering. Like poker, one must watch their body language and facial expressions while playing this game. This is why, when you walk past a whole room of bridge players, they all look and act like a bunch of zombies. They are trying not to dither.

My Bridge opponents watch me closer than a town budget to see if I dither. If he/she spots a legal dither, they can take advantage of me and I get trounced. (This happens a lot.) If it turns out I made an illegal dither, I may take a penalty plus get a 12-inch finger in my face. An illegal dither is one where there is no legitimate reason to dither. Could I make up this foolishness?

Dithering is not just something used with Bridge. In the real world there is only legal dithering. Remember the Cuban missile crisis of 1962? Our war ships surrounded Cuba while Russian cargo vessels containing intercontinental ballistic missiles chugged toward the country. In the eleventh hour, just when we thought we were witnessing the start of World War III, dithering saved our butts. Here is how it happened.

President John Kennedy called



Fred Wooldridge

• **Feedback is encouraged!**
email:

askfredanything@aol.com

Premier Nikita Khrushchev on the video phone and said, "Yo, Niki baby, you look to be in good health today. Thanks for the case of vodka you sent last month. Did you get my barrel of Irish whiskey?"

"Yes, I did and drank it in one sitting. Thanks. Now what about this blockade you have around Cuba. Are you nuts? Are we at the brink of war?"

Without any signs of dithering, Kennedy said, "Niki, Niki, Niki, we can't allow you to arm Cub with

nuclear weapons. Can we cut a deal?" Kennedy spotted Khrushchev wiggling in his chair and rubbing his face, the worse signs of dithering one can display. Kennedy knew this was good.

Then Niki said, "Jack, Jack, Jack, what could you ever offer Russia that would interest me?"

Without any signs of dithering, Kennedy said, "You give up your plans to arm the island and I'll promise to never blow Cuba off the face of the map...and I'll throw in a night with Marilyn. Wadaya say, Niki baby?"

At this point all dithering stops. Then Niki says, "Don't call me baby. How about two nights with Marilyn and you remove all your CIA guys?"

Now Kennedy started to dither but recovered quickly. "Niki, what about your heart? Careful what you wish for. You can't take two nights with Marilyn. Let's stick with one night and I'll throw in another barrel of good Irish whiskey. Otherwise she will surely finish you off."

"It's a deal but don't call me Shirley and don't call me baby." Subsequently, the Russian ships withdrew and the blockade ended, all because of dithering. You won't find any of this in your Bridge guide so don't even bother looking.

P.S. – On another subject, the li'l missus made me read Don Swanson's column where he is obviously preoccupied with my preoccupation with the sex lives of animals. My response: There are no critters or pets in my house. That said, everyone in Highlands who is currently "sleeping" with their dog, raise your hand. I rest my case, har, har, har.

• Do you know how Fred avoids terrorists? Read his book *I'm Moving back to Mars.*

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Now he sounds like a politician

Along with millions of others, I really believed that Barack Obama was different. He said he was, and I hoped it was true. To be honest, I became a little nervous when he started to bicker with Hillary. Turning the other cheek wasn't getting a lot of votes. Tactics, I thought. It's just a tactical maneuver to show that he's tough. A president must be tough. Look at George Bush. I applauded his willingness to meet with leaders of "rogue states." Refusing to meet with and discuss differences with our enemies never made much sense to me.

There is much rhetoric in international politics. If an Iranian leader, or a North Korean for that matter, is willing to talk with us after our President included them in an "Axis of Evil," then I think we should be willing to overlook some of the unkind things they've said about us. Besides, so much of the bravado on both sides is intended for home town consumption. Iraq filled out the triad of evil, but I guess they're good guys now that Saddam is gone.

I became suspicious that maybe Senator Obama wasn't as different as he claimed when he started putting conditions on his willingness to meet with the "Evil Doers." It was a position that wowed liberals, but one with which moderates were uncomfortable, and moderate voters were the next target.

After a historic battle, he bested Senator Clinton and started a quadrennial migration undertaking by presidential candidates for as far back as I can remember. The first priority is to sew up the nomination. A candidate accomplishes this by rounding up the true believers. Once he has secured the nomination, he has them securely in his hip pocket, because where else are they going to go, Ralph Nader? It is at that point that Obama started his rightward drift in an attempt to corral some moderate voters who might lean toward Senator McCain.

The tricky part of the migration is to convince his base that he is not vacillating on positions dear to them, while persuading the new targets that he is not as liberal as they had feared, that he had been misquoted and misunderstood.

He opposes guns, but cheered the Supreme Court's decision that the Washington, D.C. handgun law was unconstitutional. He is against capital punishment, but bemoaned a court decision which held that executing child rapists is cruel and unusual punishment. Nobody, it seems, not even Candidate



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.

email:

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Obama, wants to be seen as a friend of those who prey on kids. And why would they, except that if one believes capital punishment to be inhumane. He must believe it in July of an election year as firmly as he believed it as a junior senator from Illinois.

So Senator Obama does a quadrennial shuffle, and while his early supporters clearly see his feet moving, he tells them that he is dancing in place. Maybe it's a new dance, the Obama moon walk. He wouldn't be eager to give credit

to the real originator, Michael Jackson, who has some kid issues of his own.

I'm glad that the Senator is clarifying his positions, and telling me that clarification differs from that politically lethal activity, flip flopping. I don't care if a person, even a candidate, changes his mind. Situations change. Surely we would finally take the military option off the table if Iran held free and fair elections and voted for candidates who adored the USA and Israel. That would be a sensible change in national policy. I'm not suggesting that Obama ever endorsed a military strike against Iran. The example of our Iranian policy is just the clearest and least likely that comes to mind. Sometimes we are wrong, all of us. I'd vote for a candidate who told me he had changed his mind because he was wrong.

Of course, John McCain is migrating, as well. He's tarnishing his maverick image a little by backing away from his very public support of comprehensive immigration and opposition to Bush tax cuts and off shore drilling. But the guy needs votes and the guy needs money, and they're all there on the right.

So I came home from church a week ago Sunday and settled in to listen to the Sunday news shows. I was bombarded with McCain surrogates claiming that Obama was flip flopping and Obama supporters leveling the same charge against McCain. When asked to explain apparent changes in Senator Obama's positions, his representative ignored the question and chose instead to condemn similar behavior by his opponent. Then he said it.

In a rare moment of candor, he said that the first thing was to get elected. He didn't say that the most important thing was to tell the truth or to stick to one's principles. He didn't say, and obviously didn't believe, that leveling with the electorate was paramount. Nope. Winning. That was the main thing. And suddenly Senator Obama didn't sound different at

• See SALZARULO page 19

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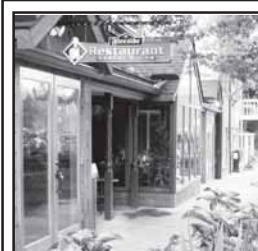
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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

I was very surprised when I read about Pine Street Park in the June 26 issue of this newspaper. First, it's not called that anymore — it is now the "Kelsey-Hutchinson Park." What an ungainly name — it will never stick — and what a ridiculously long name for such a small patch of grass. I'd like to make another suggestion.

I think we should call it "Postage-Stamp Park" for two reasons: this name

A postage-stamp by any other name...

more accurately reflects the park's size and it commemorates the years the Post Office was located here.

Second, and more seriously (although I am serious about the silliness of the name), I was shocked to see that the Town Board had unanimously approved a plan to change the route of Pine Street with *no* public input. As much



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why isn't this area a park today?

I also noticed the cost of all of this street movement was still to be determined. I believe the cost of acquiring the property was over one million dollars. How much is Postage-Stamp Park going to end up costing?

There aren't many things I would say this about, but in the area of parks Cashiers has Highlands beat, and beat badly. I don't think many people in Highlands know the history of the Cashiers Village Green. I didn't until last fall when I interviewed Al Balestiere at an event in the park.

The story begins in the early 1990s, when a motel chain purchased two acres of land at the southwest corner of the Cashiers crossroads. The chain then encountered some financial problems and the project lay dormant for some time. One day Mr. Balestiere was complaining about how horrible the corner looked, and his wife said, "I'm tired of hearing you complain. Why don't you do something about it instead?" And he did!

With the help of two friends, Elizabeth Davenport and John Lupton, Mr. Balestiere purchased the land from the motel firm in 1992 and gave it to a nonprofit charitable corporation for the Cashiers community.

Today, the park has expanded to 12 ½ acres through gifts and fundraising efforts and it features walking paths, a nationally judged dahlia garden, boardwalks over wetlands, a children's playground, rustic pavilions with picnic tables and grills, a woodlands trail, and sculptures by internationally renowned sculptors. (www.villagegreencashiersnc.com)

If you'd like to see the interview with Mr. Balestiere, check out *Heart of the High Country* Show 419 from the Hudson Library. This year they have a sculpture exhibit that will run through November 14; if you'd like to see a program on that, check out Show 508.

Highlands has a lot of needs. There is no place to have an indoor event of any size in this town without using the tacky basketball court in the Civic Center. This last weekend The Bascom made a valiant effort to transform the space for their Mountains in Bloom flower show, but you couldn't escape the fact that basketball hoops were hanging from every wall.

There is a splendid piece of property just on the edge of Highlands that could be made into an amazing park/event center: Tugwa Ridge. Many people had the chance to tour this 16-acre property last year when it was a Designer Showhouse fundraiser for many local

• See BRUGGER page 7

as people have fought about streets and parking in this town, I am amazed that something this dramatic could be done with just a wave of the commissioners' hands.

I drove down Pine Street last week to try and envision what this curved road would look like and I suggest you try it also. Drive from Fourth Street towards Fifth, and pull over to the right curb just as you reach the grassy park. Now imagine making a sharp turn to the right and then travelling along the edge of Highlands Village Square. It seems like an absolutely insane plan to add only a very small amount of land to the park.

The main rationale for doing this as far as I can tell is to join the green space to the gazebo, which is on Macon Bank property. So let me get this straight: the town is altering the route of a street, making it much more difficult to use, to join a patch of grass to a piece of property it doesn't own and only has a bank manager's promise that the public will be able to use it?

As John Cleaveland said last year about the public's right to that gazebo: "Where's the deed?"

This brings to mind an interesting article Ran Shaffner wrote almost exactly a year ago, when the new town government building was being proposed. ("A Brief History of the Town Government Block," *Highlands Newspaper*, July 4, 2007) This line caught my eye: "In August of [1883] they sold [the western portion of the block between Oak, Maple, and 4th Streets] for one dollar to the Ladies Floral and Industrial Society of Highlands, who created a 'permanent' two-acre 'Highlands Park,' where the Playhouse and fire and police stations exist today. The intent of the Ladies Society was to protect and preserve as well as promote the natural beauty of Highlands as the business district grew."

Notice Mr. Shaffner put "permanent" in quotes; a subtle point being made about the permanence of promises? And

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• COACH'S CORNER •

Book Review 'Blue Blood' by Art Chansky

Usually I try and stay away from literary recommendations in this space, mainly because people who have a fine appreciation for the art of writing tend to skip straight to Fred's column. However, this week I completed reading (for the third time) Art Chansky's fine historical summation of the Duke-UNC basketball rivalry aptly titled "Blue Blood."

This book is an absolute necessity for folks living in North Carolina who have often wondered what makes this rivalry rank at the top of every sports commentator's list. Chansky's argument is presented in a somewhat chronological notation, taking care to provide both details and supporting commentaries from those closest to both universities.

The author's primary focus is on the immense success of the two programs in addition to the incestuous nature of the rivalry caused by the close proximity of the two universities. The fact that only eight miles separate the two schools means that there is a constant intertwining of communities, fans and participants in a bitter battle for superiority. Chansky does an excellent job of capturing the ebb and flow of the rivalry, from Vic Bubas' early dominance over Dean Smith and UNC (which will come as a surprise to the fans who think that Coach K started Duke basketball) to Smith's complete control of the ACC during the late 80s.

Despite being a loyal fan of UNC, Chansky makes a concerted (although sometimes flawed) effort at remaining objective over a topic that provides no safe haven for objectivity. The difficulty of looking at the subject through an untainted eye is apparent in commentaries from Chansky on Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski in particular, but are still even handed enough to appease even the most virulent Duke fan.

Chansky's efforts are supported from many anecdotes from both Duke and UNC apologists and rivalry participants. The reader will find examples of both admiration and disgust from both shades of blue, with portrayals of Coach K and Dean Smith in particular providing an excellent parallel for



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the rivalry itself. Overall, this book is an excellent read for both basketball fans and native North Carolinians alike, and can offer a great insight into the world of "the rivalry" that affects almost everyone who lives or ever has lived in this great state.

And finally, we will close today with a commercial in honor of the recently retired Billy Packer — I'm gonna

miss him.

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"For you, nothing sets the mood for a contest quite like boorish comments, incessant nitpicking, and the personality of a man who's been wiping his rear end with sandpaper for the last 34 years. (It's getting rough down there).

"So here's to you, oh Crown Prince of Curmudgeon...because if knowing it all is wrong...then you don't want to be right. (Mr. Crotchety bitter old annooooounnnccaaar) Bud Light, Anheuser Busch, Fort Collins, Colorado.

Benefit for Alexander family at the Civic Center

On Saturday, July 26, there will be a benefit for the Alexander family featuring BBQ by Joe Goeghan, live music and lots of raffle items. Don't miss it!

... BRUGGER continued from page 6

non-profits. It is stunning, with a lake and pastures for horses. It's currently priced at \$4.9 million, and compared to the price already paid for Postage-Stamp Park, this seems like a bargain. What if someone bought this and donated it to the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust for use by the public? (To be clear: I have no financial interest in this property which

is listed with BlackRock Realty.)

I'm sure there are other properties and possibilities out there for a park that could serve Highlands' future needs if Highlands only had someone like Mr. Balestiere to step up and make it happen.

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



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• HIS & HERS •

Smart as a whip, dumb as a hoe handle

The great danger in offering unqualified praise to another person is they could turn around, do / say something really stupid, and make you doubt your original judgment. That's why the greatest praise for public officials comes when they are safely dead. From that position, they are unlikely to offer any new, public embarrassment.

Still, it's important to climb out on a limb from time to time.

There are three people whose bylines I always follow. I have never ceased to be impressed by any column I've read from any of these three gentlemen (in alphabetical order): Charles Krauthammer, Thomas Sowell, and Mark Steyn. The one I praise today is Krauthammer. By the way, I'll save the public figure I am attacking, for last. Dessert first, liver and onions after.

Krauthammer's latest column is "The Alter of Soft Power." He begins with the incredible rescue of Ingrid Betancourt and 14 other long-held hostages from the hands of the FARC terrorists in Columbia. It was executed by the Colombian military without a shot being fired. American special forces played a critical role in the intelligence gathering that made the rescue work.

This was, he wrote, a classic example of "hard power." That means using your military assets to get a result in a confrontation. "Soft power," on the other hand, means negotiations, resolutions, mild sanctions, but nothing which would be called military or an act of war.

Krauthammer pointed out that in the six years that Betancourt was held in the jungle, all the governments of Europe repeatedly passed resolutions deploring the kidnappings, and urging Columbia to negotiate with the FARC captors. Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez had offered to be a go-between. Only another use of "hard power," a raid into Ecuador by the Columbia Army, revealed the truth.

In the Ecuador raid, Columbia killed a top official of FARC, but it also captured computers and their files which revealed that President Chavez was financially supporting FARC and working hand and glove with them. That use of "hard power" was attacked by European (and some American) supporters of talking with, rather than acting, against terrorists.

Krauthammer points out that "soft power" is the preferred action by many sources, including the UN and the G-8, against other groups of murderers including Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe,



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John Armor
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John_Armor@yale.edu

the Sudanese so-called leaders in Darfur, and the dictators in what used to be Burma, who allowed untold thousands of their citizens to die in the aftermath of floods, rather than let in foreigners bringing help (but also lifting the veil of secrecy in that benighted nation).

As usual, Krauthammer made a logical, penetrating analysis of a

major public issue. He offered clear, supportable truth, which needs to be pounded into the mushy skulls of many leaders around the world. It is a pathetic commentary that the UN refused, this very day, to support any sanctions to get rid of the murderous Mugabe.

And now we turn to the opposite end of the scale, stupidity in public.

A Dallas County Commissioner in a public discussion of failures of the County's Central Collections, referred to it as a "black hole." Documents and money were going into the Bureau, and never being seen again. One black Commissioner demanded an apology, and another one, Commissioner John Wiley Price said that "that type of language is unacceptable."

Warming to his task, Commissioner went on to condemn in the hearing other terms he considered racist, including the difference between "angel food cake and devil's food cake." He also objected to the use of the phrase, "black sheep." And he used the phrase, "Jew you down," as an example of a "racist" remark he deliberately would not use, because he is so sensitive to such matters.

To put no fine point on it, Commissioner Price is as dumb as a hoe handle. "Black hole" is an astronomical expression which means a collapsed star with such high gravity that not even light can escape. It was an excellent metaphor for a failed public agency. It is also a reasonable description of the quality of Commissioner Price's brain, not because he is black, but because he shows world-class ignorance.

The more people we have in the public sphere like Krauthammer, the better off we will be. The more we have who are like Price, the worse off we will be. And, anyone thinking of attacking me as racially prejudiced, before doing so, find out the racial backgrounds of the three people I praised so highly at the beginning.

• About the Author: John Armor practiced law in the US Supreme Court for 33 years. He now lives in Highlands, NC, and is working on a book on Thomas Paine. John_Armor@aya.yale.edu



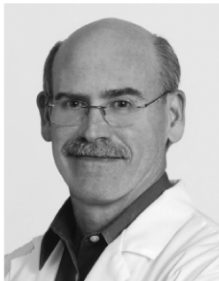
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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

2010 was not a good year...

I'm not going to do this often, but I can't resist sharing the following email story forwarded to me by a friend. If you got it, it won't hurt to read it again; if you didn't, it will be worth your while. It's the text of a speech given in 2033.

"2010 was not a good year to be President. Just a couple of years prior, in 2008, the country began floundering. We were in the sixth year of the Iraqi Occupation, and the economy was flat. The mainstream press clearly wanted a Democrat elected.

Although we didn't know it until some years later, oil producing nations had colluded to secretly buy their own oil in the open market, driving oil prices to shocking levels above the true demand price – reaching a high of \$162 a barrel in October, 2008, just before the general elections. The purpose was simple; to effect regime change in the United States.

And of course, the U.S. economy was already in a real estate slump and also suffering the curse of stagflation; slow growth and high inflation. There were a million home foreclosures. Independent truckers went under by the thousands. Airlines failed. Airlines with names now long forgotten: United, Delta, Northwestern, American. All now merged into the one lone carrier we love so much: Southwest.

Against this backdrop of weariness of the war on terror, and economic distress, the American people were ripe for a demagogue, and they certainly got one in Barack Hussein Obama. He and his running mate Kathleen Sibelius inspired them with vague notions of hope and change; of a world in which diplomacy settled all international problems, of free universal health care, of abundant alternative energy, of peace and love. It was a vision too good to resist.

The Republican nominee is a name you probably haven't heard in years. Yes, it was John McCain, an obscure Senator from Arizona, who had no clue how to run a national campaign, and a platform nearly as liberal as Obama's. The selection of Condoleezza Rice as his running mate looked brilliant at first. Unfortunately, black voters viewed her as white, and women voters viewed her as one of the guys.

Even so, the McCain/Rice ticket would have won the election if it weren't for the fact that 16 percent of conservative Republicans voted for Bob Barr, another name that's a footnote in history. After Obama's narrow win, thanks to recounts



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

in Broward County, Florida, the country was absolutely giddy. A Democrat House, Senate and President. At last an end to gridlock in Washington. Camelot!

When Congress convened in January 2009, the 44th President of the United States did something unique in history: he made good on his campaign promises.

Certainly most Americans never really thought he was serious during

the campaign. But whether because of inexperience, idealism or simply incompetence, he followed through.

In Obama's first One Hundred Days, the Congress passed his initiatives, and he signed them into law as he said he would. He repealed the Bush tax cuts, and increased capital gains taxes. He enacted a windfall profits tax and instituted price controls on gasoline and diesel fuel. He passed universal health care, which added an additional 10 per cent tax increase on all working Americans.

He signed the immigrant Amnesty bill that created 12 million new citizens instantly, each with entitlements. He closed the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay and summarily released all the detainees. He repealed the Patriot Act, and cut funding for espionage, and eliminated all terrorist listening and wiretaps.

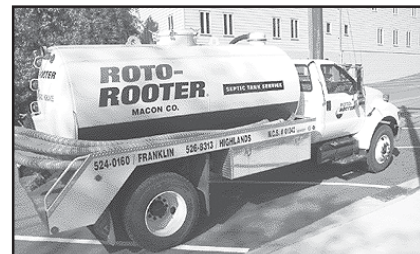
Most important, he began the complete and immediate withdrawal of all American troops from Iraq. He ignored the advice of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who wanted to retain bases in Kuwait and Qatar. Instead, he went with the recommendation of Secretary of Defense Dennis Kucinich, and ordered all troops back to U. S. soil.

Viola! In One Hundred Days, by May of 2009, it was all done, and the vision was complete. He did exactly what he said he would do. And so it was in the summer of 2009 that things began to unravel for Obama. Of course, the economy needed a tax cut, not an increase, and unemployment quickly rose to 12 per cent. Even attorneys and economists were put in the bread lines. Hard times.

Price controls on gasoline immediately led to shortages and gas lines. The global cooling trend we have seen for the past 25 years first became obvious in 2009, exposing the CO2 global warming fraud. People were justifiably angry. Federal deficits increased massively because thousands of baby boomers, facing job loss and much higher taxes, simply gave up and took social security.

• See SWANSON page 14

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Dr. Ouma Obama presenting a trophy to the soccer team captains

An unexpected encounter with another Obama

By Sarah Clark
 Contributor

My friend whispered in my ear, "That's Obama's sister." I glanced around looking for someone resembling the democratic presidential candidate. Failing to spot anyone matching the picture in my mind; I went back to taking pictures of the soccer game.

On the soccer field, two teams kicked up fine red dust under the hot Kenyan sun. The soccer team from the British High Commission was playing a friendly match against a team of young men from Kibera, East Africa's largest slum, with the hope of raising awareness about Kibera Mpira Mtaani (Kibera Village Football). Mpira Mtaani is a project using soccer to give slum kids something to do as well as an incentive to stay in school and off drugs.

I had come hoping to get an interesting story about the wealthy and privileged reaching out to the poor and underprivileged. Little did I expect to rub shoulders – literally – with Senator Obama's half sister, the daughter of

Obama's father and his Kenyan wife.

I missed Dr. Ouma Obama at first glance, but soon realized she was the pleasant woman dressed in black, with dreadlocks and sunglasses, chatting with the game's organizers. She and her two daughters cheering on the Kibera team demonstrated her keen interest in programs helping Kenya's poor.

The teams played a good game with three goals apiece. The British Deputy High Commissioner was pleased, saying, "We came here feeling that we were going to lose, really badly."

When the game ended with a tie even after a penalty shootout, the organizers asked Dr. Obama to present the small trophy to the team captains.

Her "celebrity" status was a good reminder of Kenyan's keen interest in Kenyans in Senator Obama's presidential hopes.

• Sarah Clark and her family lived in Highlands for about five years before moving to Kenya. She worked at Kilwins, her father, Larry Clark owned Clark Construction Company and her mother, LaNita worked at the former Kelsey and Hutchinson Lodge. Her brother Gary Clark is an artist and contractor. For several years Sarah and her parents have been doing missionary work in Kenya. She will be writing a column about life there once a month.



Sarah (second from left) with her friends who were working on a documentary of Kibera Mpira Mtaani, along with the match organizer Kristy McLulich.

• ANOTHER POV •

Better that that!

A few weeks ago a columnist in this paper expressed an opinion that she was less than appreciative of the job President Bush has done on his watch. Indeed she was "ashamed" to use her word of certain actions that have been done under this administration. In response to that column a Letter to the Editor followed that expresses her opinion that President Bush has "presided over probably the most difficult time in our country since the Civil War and World War II."

I don't have an official ranking by any independent polling or analysis office but I would think that World War I, The Korean War, The Cold War, The Cuban Missile Crisis, The Detroit Riots of 1967, The Viet Nam Conflict, and the fight for Civil Rights were all rather significant periods in our history that were incredibly difficult to lived through, and in some case even survive.

What has made the events of 9/11 so significant, or perhaps more fearsome, is that it happened right here in our house. For the first time since 1865 there were war dead on our soil (unless of course you are an American Indian and they kind of had their way of life ripped apart by a series of wars from 1866 until 1891).

So are the events of 9/11 made less dire because of the events listed above? Absolutely not. But those of us who lived through those events would tell you that they were significant, frightening, and momentous in their effect on America. Viet Nam, the war, and the demonstrations, almost tore this country apart.

This Letter to the Editor of which I speak stated that the columnist "slandered" the President. I have read and reread the column and I can't find the slander. Going by Webster's definition of slander, which is, "Words falsely spoken that damage the reputation of another" the key word there is *falsely*. The column stated that there is a report that outlines abuses at Abu Ghraib, that human rights have been ignored at Guantanamo, that the report entitled "Broken Laws Broken Lives: Medial Evidence of Torture by the US" supports those claims.

The column reported that a US Major General, who conducted the investigation into Abu Ghraib, has accused the President of war crimes. Also reported was that President signed a Signing Statement to allow himself to ignore a law that our Congress had passed and he had signed, which stated that the US does not support



Matthew G. Eberz
Feedback is encouraged
Email:
mgeberz@verizon.net

torture. Was what she reported true? Yes. Was the column slanderous? Answer, no. Did the columnist express her dissatisfaction with the President? Most assuredly yes.

Now what is open to opinion is whether or not all of that matters to you legally or morally. For some it comes down to "the end justifies the means" or "do whatever it takes." I personally find the events at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo morally reprehensible, legally

unacceptable and believe they have brought shame on the good name and laws of America.

It has been very simply said, that War is Hell. In that hell, captured soldiers have been tortured for information since man first raised up arms against each other. As a student of military history I have read accounts of such ghastly and sickening treatment of captured soldiers to get information that it can only be termed inhuman. As a soldier of the Viet Nam era, I can tell you we were not immune that that barbarism.

The question for you now is, if you knew someone had information that if you could get it could possibly save lives, would you torture that person to get it? Or, if you could not do it yourself, would you have someone else do it for you?

If the answer to either is yes then I would ask, Shouldn't we be better than that?

I don't believe life, at least life in America, is just about survival. It's about principle.

I am idealist, that's true. But I am an idealist who has lived through tumultuous times, who understands what happens at the high levels of the military, what we do in the name of liberty, and the sacrifice men and women make. I have seen the best of man and the worst, and yet I believe we are still a nation of honor, a nation that still can be all that our Founding Fathers intended us to be; a society of the people, by the people and for the people – all the people.

There are over 300 million people in America all of whom can be emotional, especially about the tragedy of 9/11 and what has followed. I personally want to get those responsible, make them suffer and then hang them in the town square for all to see. I think we all do. But we cannot justify killing or torturing innocent people to get them.

• See ANOTHER POV page 18



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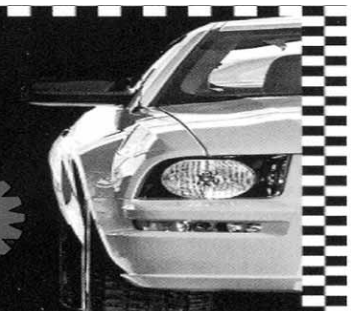
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... POLITICAL continued from page 1

to emphasize that it was never our intention to engage in a battle with our town; we simply wish to express our right to free speech within the parameters of the sign ordinance."

To publicize their support of candidate Obama, the family decided to hang five individual signs displaying one letter each to spell out the name O-B-A-M-A. Again, deVile says the town received complaints and once again the family was told it was out of compliance with the sign ordinance.

"After receiving the Notice of Violation, you reduced the size of the initial sign (logo) to 16 sq. ft. and added detached lettering – five component parts – to complete the name of the candidate. The size of that "sign" is currently 80 sq. ft.," wrote Ward in a letter dated May 28. "You have the right to appeal the zoning administrator's decision but you have indicated to me you are not going to appeal nor are you going to remove the sign because you think it is per code." Ward gave the family seven days to remove the sign before civil penalties were applied.

In an email to Ward, deVile wrote: "In an earlier phone conversation, you told me

plainly that there were no limits as to the total number of political signs one displays on one's property so long as no single sign exceeds 16 sq. ft. Section 404.1 of the Sign Ordinance is quite clear in outlining that political signs are permitted as long as they do not exceed 16 sq. ft.," she wrote. "Our signs conform to those regulations as stated by you and written in the ordinance. And since that is verifiable to anyone who performs a cursory inspection of our collection of signs we, therefore, have no intention of removing our legal signs or appealing your Notice of Violation beyond this letter."

At the June 4 Town Board meeting commissioners went into closed session to review scholarship awards, discuss personnel matters, discuss acquisition of property and to consult with the town attorney on possible litigation. Exactly what possible litigation was not disclosed.

Concerning this matter, according to the published minutes, Planning Director Joe Cooley, Code Enforcement Officer Josh Ward, and the Town Attorney briefed the Board on some potential zoning litigation – which

deVile said was about them.

"To the best of my knowledge no lawsuit was ever initiated," said Cooley. The signs were removed and replaced with a single sign. "There has been no further action taken or needed since they came into compliance," he said.

But the Rogers/deVile family allege an illegal closed session, where litigation concerning them was discussed, took place without their knowledge and for which detailed minutes haven't been disclosed.

However, in a letter to them dated June 10, Ward spelled out the possible consequences of continued violation which included civil penalties and possible litigation.

"You may be subjected to a lawsuit to obtain equitable remedies of injunction, abatement, mandamus or temporary restraining orders; and penalties assessed per day until the violation is corrected," he wrote."

General Statute G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3) provides a means for a public body to go into a closed session "to consult with an attorney" and says there is no wholesale "litigation" exception to the Open Meetings Law. However, it requires that a motion to close a session identify the parties to "each existing lawsuit concerning which the public body expects to receive advice during the closed session."

No parties were identified prior to going into closed session on June 4 nor were they

... SWANSON continued from page 11

Although the superb U.S. health care system was thrown in to disarray, the bright spot was the creation of the Federal Department of Health Care, and the immediate hiring of 250,000 administrators, inspectors and auditors created the only job growth in any economic sector in 2009. By February 2010, the U.S. military withdrawal from Iraq was complete. It was a very expensive undertaking.

And then in March, the Shiite insurgencies from Iran turned into a true Iraqi civil war. In May, Iranian tanks crossed the border and quickly took Baghdad. Although the exact number is not known, at least 230,000 Sunni Iraqis died as we stood by. Iran also moved into undefended Kuwait.

President Obama did exactly what he said he would. He sent Secretary of State Maria Cantwell to Tehran to meet with Iranian President Ahmadinejad. After two weeks of high level talks, the United States agreed to allow Iran to retain Iraq and Kuwait to create stability in the middle east, with the understanding that Israel would not be disturbed. Cantwell returned to Washington and explained

the agreement in her famous speech, in which she proudly noted that the Obama administration had finally achieved "peace in our time" in the Middle East.

So there was some surprise at the rocket attacks on Tel Aviv on August 14th. President Obama said, "this is not the Mahmoud Ahmadinejad I knew." The Obama administration decided it would be destabilizing to take sides in the conflict, and approximately 29,000 Israeli civilians died during the sum-

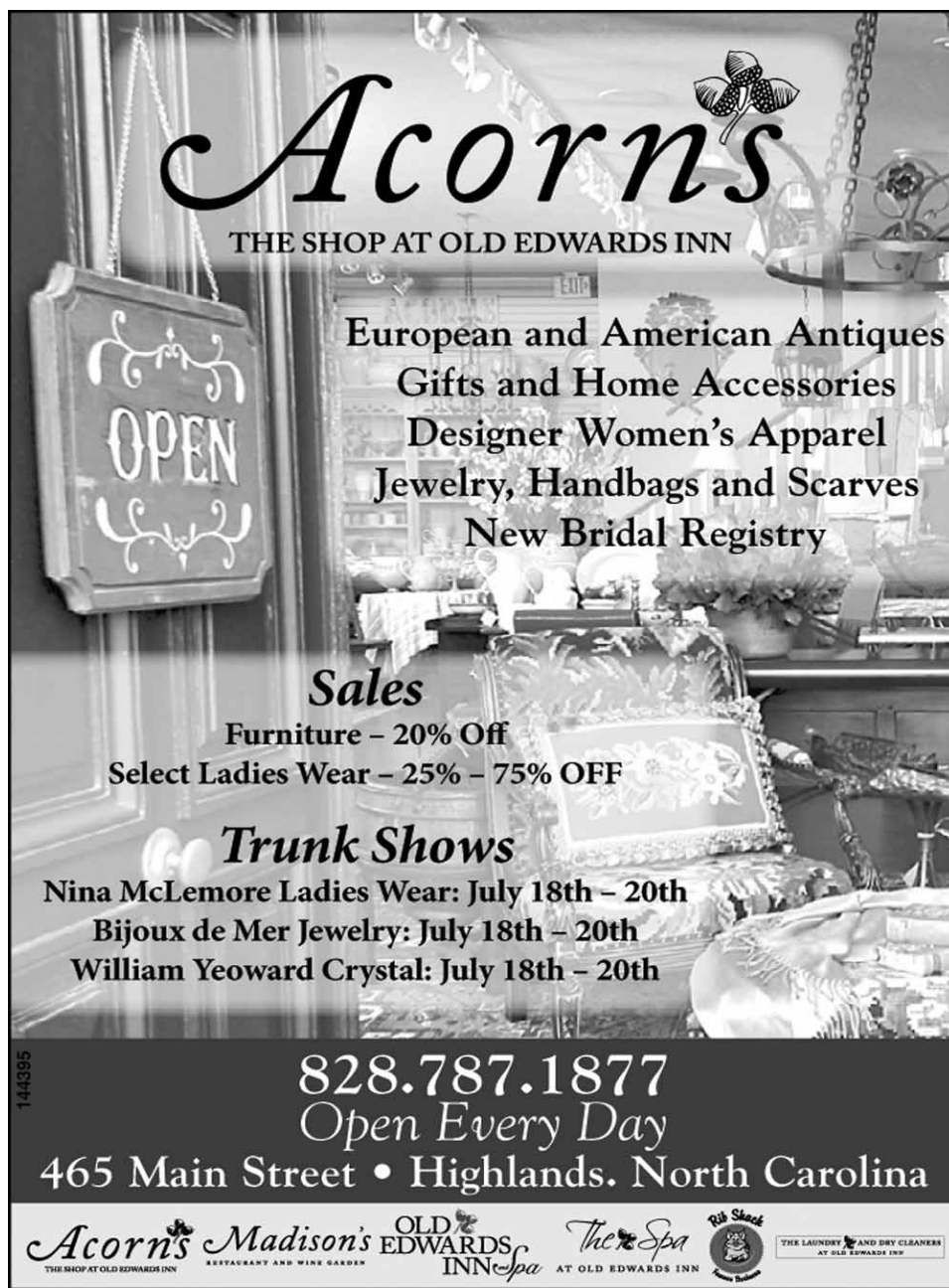
disclosed prior to the Town Board's July 16 closed session. However Town Attorney Bill Coward said he could disclose the parties to be discussed but legally he didn't have to.

Michael J. Tadych with Everett, Gaskins, Hancock & Stevens, and the North Carolina Press Association said Multimedia Publishing of NC v. Henderson County is unclear whether actual litigation needs to be pending for litigation to be discussed in closed session. "It does note that the attorney-client exception is "to be construed and applied narrowly," he said.

In the Multimedia case, the Court of Appeals traced the history of the provision of the law and wrote: "Based upon this statutory history, we do not believe the legislature intended for the present attorney-client exception to be limited to a pending or threatened claim requirement."

A few years later, in Gannett Pacific Corp. v. City of Asheville, the Court of Appeals didn't squarely address but did not object to a closed session that was convened for these reasons: "It is anticipated that City Council will go into closed session for a substantial part of that meeting to consult with an attorney employed by the City about matters with respect to which the attorney client privilege between the City and its attorney must be preserved, including possible litigation, and to give instructions to the attorney concern-

• See POLITICAL page 19



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... FORUM continued from page 2

Trooper Blanton had citizens such as these with him. The thought of Trooper Blanton dying alone on that dark roadside would have been yet another horrible image his wife and family would have had to live with. This would have been just one more terrible addition to the horrible images that will already cause them to have many sleepless nights. The truckers and citizens who risked their own lives to help trooper Blanton are heroes themselves and the law enforcement community thanks each and every one of them for their bravery and compassion for one of our own.

To our community:

I wish to thank you for allowing us the opportunity to "Protect and Serve" you. I know that I can speak on behalf of all of law enforcement when I say that we consider it a privilege and an honor for the opportunity. The responsibility you have bestowed upon us is something we do not take for granted. As the Chief law enforcement officer of Macon County, I want you to know that your community is protected by a great group of brave and dedicated law enforcement officers on the

local, state and federal level. Not only within your Sheriff's office, but within agencies such as the Franklin Police, Highlands Police, State Bureau of Investigation, NC Wildlife Commission, NC Highway Patrol, DEA, FBI, and Marshal Service. While the death of Trooper Blanton has affected each of us in different ways, his death serves as a reminder to us all as to just how dangerous the responsibility of protecting our community really is. Stopping a vehicle on the side of an interstate is no different than stopping someone in downtown Franklin, on 441 South or even on one of our back roads in the outlying areas of the county. A tragedy such as this can happen anywhere, anytime, and to any one of us. Macon County has truly been blessed and God has been watching over us all.

To those that serve:

I thank all of our law enforcement officers that "Protect and Serve" our community as well. In whatever capacity you serve, each plays an important role in our society. I believe that law enforcement is not only a profession but a calling. A law

enforcement officer must have compassion, integrity, understanding, and lots of patience for your fellow man. As each of you know, once you enter this profession it doesn't take long to figure this out. With the death of a brother officer, we all feel a sense of loss. With that loss, we should remember that we are also extremely blessed. One reason is because it could have easily been you or someone you work with that died that night. It could have been you that didn't get the opportunity to check 10-42 that night but during this time of grief I know that each of you have already thought of that. You go to work daily knowing the risks and that is another reason why I am taking this opportunity thank each of you for what you do and for the sacrifices you make to be in this profession. Every night when you leave for work, you accept the fact that there is no guarantee that you will come home to your family safely. Today you will put on your uniform, pin your badge on, holster your duty weapon and tell your family good-bye. You will then go to your patrol vehicle, check 10-41 (starting tour of duty) and drive the roadways alone protecting and serving

your community just as G-540 did on June 17, 2008. A simple thank you does not seem like enough, but in reality, there are no words to express my, as well as the community's, true appreciation for what you do.

To the Blanton family: On behalf of my family, my staff, and our entire the law enforcement community, Our hearts and prayers are with you as well as with Trooper Blanton's brothers and sisters who worked with him. We thank each of them for their dedicated service and commitment to keeping our families, our community and our state safe.

To Jesse Blanton and his brothers and sister: While I have never met you, our hearts ache for you. I know your heart is aching like never before with the loss of your brother and for that I am truly sorry. Each of you will continue to be in our prayers. While I heard you describe how proud you are of your brother, know that some of his friends know just how proud Shawn was of you. Continue to make your brother proud, keep his memories alive

• See FORUM page 21

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... MENTAL HEALTH continued from page 1

"This is groundbreaking," said Commissioner Ronnie Beale who was on the taskforce. "This is the first comprehensive report and snapshot of mental health in a county."

Beale said he personally became aware of the lack of mental health services in the county when a mother who was having problems finding care for her child approached him at an event.

After nine public task force meetings, it was determined that in Macon County there is a lack of information and communication coordination concerning mental health services and alternatives.

Specifically, there is a lack of psychiatric services; a lack of, or ineffective crisis services; a lack of convenient services; and a lack of a mental health workforce - a problem that plagues most of Western North Carolina, said Jane Kimsey, social services director for Macon County.

Access to mental health services has been an issue in Macon County for a long time and the burden of mental illness on health and productivity in the country has been underestimated, said taskforce members.

It is estimated that 1 in 4 Americans ages 18 years and older suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder - that's 1,401 residents of Macon County.

Taskforce representative Jim Bruckner, Macon County health director, said not being able to access necessary mental health services is not only detrimental to a person's overall health, but it has an economic impact on the entire community.

He said it splashes over into housing, employment/income support, social programs, education, the health care system and other community based services and programs.

Suggestions for remedying the problem include a mental health care navigator; a list of available services and providers available on the county's website, by print and phone; case management services; a Help Line like Ask-a-Nurse; specialized summer programs for children; an explanation on how to appropriately access services; follow-up services; a homeless shelter and more support groups.

One big problem is the county's inability to attract and retain qualified mental health professionals coupled with a lack of funding with available funding decreasing.

"There is no psychiatrist in the area," said Bruckner. "Recruiting efforts are underway, but so far no luck."

Currently, the Balsam Center is the only place to refer or take mental health patients but that means traveling a long way.

"We want to decentralize the Balsam Center and zone out from county hospital emergency rooms," said Kimsey. "We also would like a drop-in center like the old Smoky Mountain Center - so we can offer drop-in assessment services."

A 24/7/365 assessment center could be a central receiving site for emergencies, behavioral health evaluation and crisis inter-

vention for people experiencing acute psychiatric symptoms or problems with substance abuse.

This would mean emergency department staffing, a drop-in center, a possible crisis stabilization unit, and a mobile crisis team based in the county to provide services where needed.

Currently, Angel Medical Center in Franklin has a wait time for inpatient mental health beds, but in August, Harris Regional Hospital in Sylva will have 16 beds for mental health patients and in October Cannon Memorial Hospital is supposed to have 10 beds.

A school-based mental health service subcommittee was also recommended as was funding for testing coordinators so guidance counselors can provide school-based mental health services.

"Prevention, early detection and access to help is key," said Bruckner.

The taskforce also suggested alternatives for transporting mental health recipients for involuntary commitment - perhaps involving the county transportation authority. Currently, the Sheriff's Department is called when citizens need to be transported.

On the recommendation of the taskforce, Healthy Carolinians of Macon County will immediately begin developing a program based on taskforce findings. The \$6,000 will be used to fund part-time staff 10 hours a week for 24 weeks (\$4,200) and \$1,800 will be used for program planning, travel, meeting incentives and other activities.

"This needs to be done to serve that segment of the population that needs to be served," said Leatherman.

During the public session part of the July 14 meeting, Mary Ann Widenhouse with the National Alliance on Mental Illness that meets from 7-9 p.m. at the Family Restoration Center on Wiley Brown Road in Franklin the first and third Thursday of each month, asked the board to consider placing a person who suffers from mental illness on the taskforce.

"Their input is vital," she said. "They have a vested interest in the output of the taskforce."

She said the candidate would have to self-disclose without risk of stigma, misunderstanding, or fear associated with disclosure which could lead to a lack of housing even employment.

Commissioners said they didn't want to leave anyone out of the process.

By Dec. 31, 2008, Healthy Carolinians will submit a report with program and funding recommendations to the Mental Health Taskforce.

The taskforce consists of Commissioner Ronnie Beale, Bruckner, Kimsey, Sheriff Robbie Holland; Don Sandoval, CEO of Angel Medical Center; Kathy McGaha, program director of Healthy Carolinians; Miek Neidg, a therapist with Mental Health Professionals; Paula Ledford with Macon County Schools; and Rhona Cox and Tammy Keezer with Smoky Mountain Center.

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... ANOTHER POV from 13

And as a nation, founded on justice, we cannot do what we wish we could. We look to our leaders to guide this nation and to deal with these situations without emotion and with the principles of our Constitution in mind. It is hard not to be vengeful; we should be better than that, and the President *must* be. If we aren't, well then, what's the point?

Next week I will express another Point Of View.



Highlands' own Vangie and Curtis Rich, 'at home' in their roles as Ethel and Norman Thayer on stage at Highlands Playhouse through Sunday, July 20.

Success of Playhouse's 'On Golden Pond' due to practice and intimacy

By Evan Schmidt
Reporter

As we know in America, sometimes actors go into politics. Other times politicians go into acting. Such is the case with Curtis Rich, a former Florida mayor and a lead actor who is performing in "On Golden Pond" at the Highlands Playhouse until July 20. Curtis and his wife, Vangie recently moved full time to Highlands last year from Florida.

After working for a manufacturing company in Miami, Curtis's political experience comes from his years as mayor of Crystal River, Florida, where he was originally elected in 1990. During their time in Crystal River, Curtis and Vangie also organized other community events like Dale Carnegie lectures, and wrote plays for the theater. "We intermingled a lot of community service with our careers," said Curtis.

Curtis noted that Vangie had a very different acting background than he did. "Vangie was involved in acting since she was a very small child," said Curtis. "The first play I was in was when I was five years old," Vangie said. "I was an only child, so I talked to myself a lot and pretended and played. Even in grammar school I was always in plays." She was an actor through high school. "When I was a senior in high school I got a lead in the operetta "The Pirates of Penzance," and I played the part of Mabel, which was the female lead." When they lived in Florida, Vangie was involved in acting at the Ocala Civic Theater and the playhouse in Crystal River.

Then one day Vangie asked Curtis to act in a play with her. "I had "Golden Pond"

coming up, and I knew I was going to audition, so I asked Curtis to audition, too," said Vangie. "On Golden Pond" is a play written by Ernest Thompson. The story takes place in Maine and is about Norman and Ethel Thayer and their grandson. Vangie was playing the part of Ethel, the grandmother. Because Curtis recently took an acting course from a University of Florida professor, he felt comfortable enough to audition. "We did our first "On Golden Pond" 10 years ago, and it was a tremendous success," Vangie explained.

Curtis and Vangie didn't stop there, and their next play was also a great success. Vangie explained, "After that we both auditioned for "Cat On A Hot Tin Roof," and we got the supporting leads of Big Daddy and Big Mama." This play was also extremely popular, and people enjoyed the performances of Curtis and Vangie. "The theater received so many requests asking for us to do another play together," Vangie said. "People were asking for them to bring "On Golden Pond" back." Needless to say, they have continued acting since then, even after moving to Highlands.

They both agree that the hardest part of acting in "On Golden Pond" is the memorization. "It's not just the lines, but we have to know where we're supposed to be at each point," said Vangie. Even though they have done 30 performances of the show before even coming to Highlands, Vangie said they've worked with three different sets and three different directors. "We've had to learn it

• See SUCCESS page 27

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... POLITICAL continued from page 14

ing the handling of the mediation, pursuant to N.C. Gen.Stat. sec. 143-318.11 (a) (3)."

"Thus, it is probably more clear that pending or threatened fits the bill," said Tadych.

Now the Rogers/deVille family want a full accounting of the closed session minutes concerning them – though neither Coward, the Town Board or Betz have indicated they were in fact discussed.

"We are officially requesting that you email us a copy of the June 4, 2008 Town Board closed session meeting minutes, which according NC GS 143-318.10, section (e) we are entitled: 'Every public body shall keep full and accurate minutes of all official meetings, including any closed sessions held pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11. When a public body meets in closed session, it shall keep a general account of the closed session so that a person not in attendance would have a reasonable understanding of what transpired.'"

Sparse as they are, Town Administrator Richard Betz said the general minutes of the closed session were emailed to deVille.

Since town officials haven't responded to emailed questions concerning the legality of events that have transpired, the family has

decided to re-hang the logo and five component signs which have since been replaced.

"Since you failed to respond to our previous email questions, we plan to repost our lettered signs. Based upon your silence, we assume you will have no problem with this. We respectfully request that you notify us within three business days (July 18, 2008) if your position is otherwise. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that we have your approval," wrote deVille in an email. "We don't anticipate the receipt of any further citations nor litigious actions levied against us as our lettered signs were and will continue to be in compliance with the Highlands political sign ordinance."

At the July 16 meeting, the board went into closed session to discuss a possible amendment to the town's sign ordinance which Coward said was legal. Upon returning to open session, Betz said the board discussed a possible amendment to the sign ordinance and any potential future claim that might come due to that amendment, but no action was taken. No one disclosed who in particular was discussed in the closed session.

– Kim Lewicki

... SALZARULO continued from page 5

all. In fact, he sounded very much the same, the same as any other hack politician, including, but not limited to John McCain, who puts the power above principle, triumph above truth, victory above vision. I felt sick. I turned off the TV, disillusioned and discouraged. The saddest thing was that I no longer cared who wins in November. I suppose I'll still vote for Obama for president, unless it's raining, or

late, or inconvenient.

If enough of us lose our enthusiasm, Senator Obama may deliver an eloquent speech. He may tell us that in a quest for power, he lost his way. He may thank us for showing us his error. He will say he is sorry. He will be sorry, not for straying, but for getting caught. But, as I said before, I really don't care.

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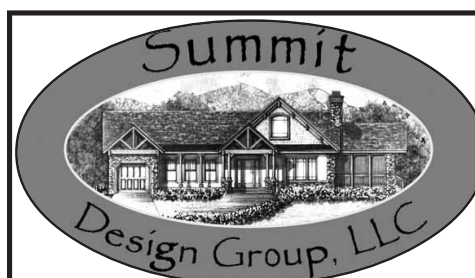
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The annual Relay For Life of Mountaintop event is set for August 22-23, at Cashiers Community Park at 5 pm.

Relay For Life is a fun-filled overnight event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money for research and programs of your American Cancer Society. Teams of family members, friends, co-workers, and others join together each year to raise funds for the American Cancer Society and make a difference in the community. In honor of those who battle cancer 24 hours a day, team members typically take turns walking the track throughout the day and night. For those not walking, there is around the clock action to keep everyone busy. From entertainment, food and games to touching ceremonies and

stories of inspiration, there is something for everyone at Relay For Life. Every unique Relay For Life is truly a community event, where new friends are made, old friends are hugged and hearts are touched by the magic that is Relay. It is an event like no other.

At every Relay For Life event, we celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer through our Survivor's Lap and survivor recognition. The strength of survivors inspires others to continue to fight. We also remember loved ones lost to the disease with our Luminaria Ceremony. At Relay, people who have walked alongside those battling

cancer can grieve and find healing. Finally, we fight back against cancer because everyone has been touched by cancer and we want to put an end to the disease. Relay helps individuals make a commitment to save lives by taking up the fight.

In 2007, the Mountain Top Relay For Life raised \$159,750 for the American Cancer Society, claiming the number-one per capita Relay For Life event in the nation for the seventh year in a row.

Sponsors are Cashiers Crossroads Chronicle, The Highlander Newspaper, Carolina Smokehouse, Fressers Eatery and Sweet Treats of Highlands.

There are a number of Relay fundraisers in which the public can participate. They include:

*RBC Bank of Highlands has an ongoing book sale in the lobby and Friday August 8th there will be a yard sale on the front lawn of the bank.

*Ice Cream Bonanza and Blue Grass every Friday night at the Lake Toxaway Community Center with proceeds benefiting Relay.

*Wachovia Bank – Cashiers will be having a car wash in August.

*Grace Church is having a luncheon after church July 13, Wednesday night supper July 30 and lunch after church August 10 with donations and proceeds going to Relay For Life.

*Relay For Life Stars are available for purchase at numerous various locations including Wendy's, RBC Bank of Highlands & Cashiers, Wachovia Bank – Cashiers and United Community Bank. Luminaries honouring or remembering cancer victims may be donated for only \$10 each.

*The best bluegrass, country, and gospel music performed by area musicians will entertain Highlands' locals, seasonal residents and summer visitors at the Highlands School old gym. Square dancing and clogging will entertain and involve audiences beginning at 6:45 P.M. Concerts will run between 7:30 and 9:00 every Friday. The following free concerts are sponsored by the Just for You Relay for Life team.

July 18 - Appalachian Bluegrass and High Mountain Squares

July 25 - The Dendy Family and High Mountain Squares

Aug. 1 - Mountain Faith (The McMahan Family) and The Country Kickin' Cloggers

August 8 - Heart of the South and The Country Kickin' Cloggers

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is more than just a fundraiser. It is an opportunity to get together with family and friends and celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost to cancer and fight back against this disease.

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... FORUM continued from page 15

and strive to make the right decisions in all that you do. I know you will always cherish the days you had with him and I'm sure you will hold each of them dear to your heart. Always remember that during the days to come that God loves you and will always be there for you. I can't explain why God doesn't keep these types of things from happening but can only assume that God had a much greater plan for your brother. I pray that someday Shawn will be able to fill you in on what that plan was. While your brother will always be your hero, you'll have to share him because he will always be a hero to us as well.

To Michaela and baby Tye:

We know you have sustained a tremendous loss with the passing of your husband and daddy. We can only imagine the heartache you must be feeling today and we are sorry. We want you to know that our thoughts and prayers will continue to be with you. If we can ever do anything for you please do not hesitate to call on us. We know that Shawn would do the same if it was our family who was suffering from the same type of loss.

To G-540: We are forever grateful for your service to your community, state, and

country. You and your family will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers and rest assured our law enforcement community will do our part to help those you loved.

Note:

- More officers are killed in the south than in any other area of the nation.
- NC ranks fourth in the U.S. for officers killed in the line of duty.
- From 1997-2006, NC had 22 officers killed in the line of duty.
- During 2007 the United States had 187 officers killed in the line of duty.
- In the U.S. during the first six months of 2008, there have been 55 officers killed in the line of duty.
- North Carolina had 8 officers killed in the line of duty in 2007.
- So far in 2008, North Carolina has had 2 officers killed in the line of duty.
- Both officers were killed in June and three days apart from one another.
- In the history of the U.S. 18,274 officers have been killed in the line of duty and 458 of the officers killed while serving in North Carolina.

• (Source) Officer Down Memorial Page, Inc.

POLICE & FIRE LOGS

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for July 8-15. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

July 8

- At 7:30 p.m., officers responded to a call of illegal dumping on Chestnut Street.
- At noon, a patron of Mountain High Lodge reported a digital camera valued at \$1,500 missing from the room.
- At 7:30 p.m., Seth Carnes, 27, of Highlands, was arrested on three drug charges including possession, manufacturing and possession of drug paraphernalia of Sch. 6 substance - marijuana - at his residence on Center Street.

July 9

- At 5:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at N.C. 106 and Main Street.

July 10

- Officers responded to a report of someone leaving the site of an accident on Horse Cove Road.
- At 8:30 p.m., a motorist on N.C. 106 was cited for driving without a license.

July 13

- At 3:50 p.m. officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in the Elephant's Foot/Whole Life Foods parking lot on N. 4th Street.

July 15

- At 1:45 p.m., officers responded to a call of an abandoned vehicle in Highlands Plaza.
- At 2:30 p.m., officers assisted EMS with a call.

July 14

- At 11:04 p.m., a resident of VZ-Top reported hearing gunshots. Police determined the sounds came from somewhere in Blue Valley.
- At 9:43 a.m., officers were called to a residence

on Sagee Drive concerning the larceny of a sign valued at \$200.

July 15

- At 2:12 p.m., a motorist at N.C. 28 and Cherokee Drive was cited for driving without a license.
- During the week, officers issued 4 warning tickets and responded to 3 alarm activations.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of July 10-13

July 10

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

July 11

- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Cotswald Way. It was false.
- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on N.C. 106. Smoke from cooking had set off the alarm.

July 12

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Bowery Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Apple Lake Lane. The victim was transported to the hospital.
- The dept. responded to an alarm at residence on Spring Street. The call was cancelled.

July 13

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Dogwood Drive. There was no transport.
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on T-Ring Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.



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The Center for Life Enrichment

July 18

Dr. Mary (Mimi) Fenton Professor of English at WCU
The Poetry of John Milton
At Highlands Performing Arts Center downstairs

July 23

Katherine Brown presents Civility by Any Other Name.
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
At Highlands Performing Arts Center downstairs

July 24

William Hartman explores Alternative Energy.
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
At Highlands Performing Arts Center downstairs
\$20 each for CLE members; \$30 each for non-members
To become a CLE member and register for courses and events,
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www.clehighlands.org

• RELAY FOR LIFE •

American Cancer Society to host prostate, colon research specialists

The American Cancer Society, in conjunction with Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, will host a Cancer Research Symposium and Reception Monday, July 21, at the Highlands Performing Arts Center. The event, which starts at 5:30 p.m., is open to the public.

Two American Cancer Society-funded researchers will discuss their work in the fight against colon and prostate cancer. Speaking will be Dr. Purnima Dubey on the topic of "Supporting the Immune System's Fight Against Prostate Cancer;" and Dr. Kristie L. Foley on the topic of "Colon Cancer Treatment, Surveillance, and Survival among the Poor."

In addition to the researchers, Bill Phelps, director of Preclinical and Translational Cancer Research in the Extramural Grants Department at the American Cancer Society's National Home Office in Atlanta, will speak about the organization's long-standing commitment to funding research that will one day lead to a cure.

Dr. Dubey, an assistant professor of medicine at Wake Forest University, received \$720,000 from the American Cancer Society to study a treatment approach aimed at mobilizing the body's own immune system to fight off prostate cancer, the second leading killer of American men.

"Cancers have devised many ways to evade the immune system, by secreting substances that can suppress the activity of cells of the immune system and shutting off expression of potential targets that can be used by cells of the body to attack the cancer. In addition, the normal cells of the body form a physical barrier around the tumor, preventing immune cells from entering the tumor," said Dr. Dubey. "Therefore, there is a constant tug of war between the cancer and the immune system, allowing the cancer to continue to grow."

Dr. Foley, an associate director of Medical Humanities at Davidson College, was awarded \$274,000 to study the disparities between cancer incident rates and outcomes among poor and underserved populations with a special emphasis on colon cancer survivors.

"Our goal in conducting this research study was to uncover the factors contributing to these disparities by exploring the patient, health services, and community char-



acteristics associated with guideline-consistent treatment, surveillance, and survival among poor colon cancer patients," she said.

The Cancer Research Symposium is being held in conjunction with the Relay For Life of Mountain Top. Over the years, thousands of Highlands and Cashiers residents have participated in the

Mountain Top Relay For Life.

"This highly-successful event has been recognized as a National No. 1 Relay For Life six years in a row, with funds since its 2001 inception reaching more than \$1.3 million," said Lisa Duff, area senior community manager. "This tradition of generosity will continue with your help."

This year's Relay For Life will be held Friday and Saturday, Aug. 22-23, at the Cashiers Recreation Center. In addition to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, other program sponsors include 4 1/2 Street Inn, the Highlander and the Crossroads Chronicle.

A complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvre reception will follow the program. Those wishing to attend are asked to please RSVP by July 16, 2008, to ACS Office toll-free at 866-227-7789 or to lisa.duff@cancer.org.

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 23

828-349-3471 and/or Steven Ockey, Branch President, at 828-524-1338

Basic beliefs of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

* God is our Heavenly Father who loves us and wants us to return to Him.

* Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is our Savior and Redeemer

* Through the Atonement of Jesus Christ and our obedience, we can return to live with God.

* The Holy Ghost helps us recognize truth.

* The fullness of the Gospel has been restored to the earth through living prophets.

* The Bible and the Book of Mormon are the word of God.

* Families can be together forever.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



Elder Kent Thompson and Sister Sue Anne Thompson

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Church representatives called to area

Officials of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announce that two representatives of the Church have been sent to serve in the Macon County area with headquarters in Franklin. Elder Kent Thompson and Sister Sue Anne Thompson will serve as full time missionaries. They will be in North Carolina for approximately 18 months to teach the gospel to those who are interested and to perform community service.

There is a strong tradition of missionary service in the church. The Savior taught, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations" (Matthew 28:19). Of the more than 50,000 thousand missionaries serving in 162 countries, most are from 19- to 21-years old although a growing number -- like the Thompsons-have completed a career and decided to serve others. Missions are voluntary, and missionaries are not paid for their service.

Born and raised in Utah, Elder Thompson served a mission in South Australia when he was 19 years old. He earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in the biological science field from the University of Utah. Elder Thompson was a Fisheries Biologist with the State of Utah Division of Wildlife Resources for 35 years. Sister Thompson, also a University of Utah graduate, was a fourth grade school teacher for a few years and then a full-time mother.

The Thompsons are the parents of seven children -- five boys and two girls -- and 13 grandchildren. Six of their children have served as missionaries for the church -- in Japan, Brazil, England, Nevada, Texas and New York. Their children and families reside from Connecticut and New Jersey in the East to California in the West and Idaho and Utah in between. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints meetinghouse is located at 33 Pine Ridge Drive in Franklin. Sunday worship services begin at 10 a.m.

A Family History Library and research facility is located at the church. There is no charge and all are welcome. The hours for the library are: Tuesday and Wednesday, 6-8 p.m. Thursday, 6-8 p.m. (by appointment) and Saturday, 8-10 a.m. (by appointment).

For more information, contact the Thompsons at

•See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 22

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, Georgia
The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbelding, Pastor
Church: 706-746-2999
Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770
Sundays: 10 a.m. -- Worship
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

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

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rev. Cass Daly • Office -- 526-2320
Sunday: Holy Communion -- 11 a.m.
(Highlands Community Center on U.S. 64 next to the ballfield in Highlands)
Monday: Evening Bible Study at 6 p.m.
Wednesday: Men's Bible study at 8 a.m. at First Baptist Church

Pot Luck Lunch last Sunday of each month.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

Corner of Spring and Third streets
Sundays: 11 a.m.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Everett Brewer
Sundays: School -- 10 a.m.; Worship -- 11
Prayer -- 6:30 p.m.
Evening Service -- 1st & 3rd Sunday -- 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 Worship;
6:30 p.m. High School Group
Wednesdays: Dinner 5 p.m.-6 p.m.; 6 p.m. programs for all students; 6:15 p.m., Adult Bible Study
Thursdays: Women's Bible Study 10 a.m.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Rev. Brian Sullivan -- Rector: 526-2968
Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School
10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
Sunday Service on Channel 14 at 10:30 A.M.
Monday: 4 P.M. Women's Cursillo Group
Tuesday: 8 A.M. Men's Cursillo Group
4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry
Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice
Thursday: 10 A.M. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
10:30 A.M. Daughters of the King
• Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.
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Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.
Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by childrens Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Jr & Sr Youth Group 6:30 p.m.; Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.
Small groups available throughout the week.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. -- Seekers
Choir -- 7

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street
Sundays: School -- 10 a.m.; Worship -- 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study -- 7
HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Pastor Paul Christy
526-3376

Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 8:30 & 11 a.m.; 5 p.m. Youth Group
Wed: Supper; 6; 6:15 -- children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 -- Adult choir

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

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

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH -- ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell
2152 Dillard Road -- 526-9741
Sundays: Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion -- 10:30
HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

LITTLE CHURCH OF THE WILDWOOD

Services at the Church in the Wildwood in Horse Cove. Memorial Day through Labor Day
Call Kay Ward at 743-5009

Sundays at 7 p.m. Dress is casual. Old fashioned hymn-sing.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130
Sundays: School -- 10 a.m.; Worship -- 11
Choir -- 6 p.m.

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871
2nd Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.
4th Saturday: Sabbath Services at 10:30 a.m.
For more information, call (706)-745-1842.

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Tien, Priest
Parish office, 526-2418
Sundays: Mass -- 11 a.m.
Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.

(through last Saturday of October)

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

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

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer.
Sundays: School -- 10 a.m.; Worship -- 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study -- 7

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

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Sundays: Worship -- 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

Sundays: School -- 10 a.m.; Worship -- 11

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• BUSINESS NEWS •

Century 21 Mountain Lifestyles names top producers for June

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

In the Cashiers Office, the Top Sales Agent and the Top Listing Agent was Elizabeth Matej, broker associate, fine homes & estates specialist.

Elizabeth Matej received the Silver Producer award for her production in 2007 as well as the Top Listing by Units and Top Sales by Volume, Units & Production awards for her office last year.

In the Highlands office, Sherman Pope, broker associate, fine homes & estates specialist, new construction specialist, was named Top Sales Agent. Pope was awarded

the Silver Producer award for his production last year as well as the Top Sales by Units & Production award for his office.

Gary Owen, broker owner, fine homes & estate specialist was named Top Listing Agent. Garren was awarded the Silver Producer award for his production in 2007 and the Top Listing by Volume & Units and Top Sales by Volume awards for his office last year.

CENTURY 21 Mountain Lifestyles is located in eight offices in Buncombe, Henderson, Jackson, Macon and Transylvania counties. It is ranked 52nd in the nation among CENTURY 21® companies.

Fun on the Fourth meant fun in the mountains at Highlands Falls Country Club



At the start of each season, Highlands Falls Country Club swings into action. But the ball really gets rolling during the week of the Fourth of July. Activities abound as the week long junior camp kicks off and families flock to the mountains to partake in all of the many activities both in the Club and around town. Once again the camp reached its capacity topping out at 64 children. The weeks activities included gem mining, a trip to the lake, golf, tennis, swimming, the great race on the golf course and our ever popular carnival on the driving range, just to name a few. The campers ended the week with a 4th of July cart parade consisting of golf carts decorated by the campers with just a little help from parents and grandparents. When campers were asked if they had a good time during this year's camp the overwhelming response was, "We can hardly wait until next year!"

• BUSINESS NEWS •

Highlands Playhouse to be recipient from Remington auction



On Wednesday, July 23 at 9:30 p.m., the public is encouraged to turn out for the auction of a Remington bronze entitled "The Rattlesnake" at Scudder's Gallery on Main Street. Proceeds from the auction will go to the Highlands Playhouse. Pictured with Al Scudder are Playhouse board members Dwight Bryant of Bryant Art Glass and Wanda Drake of Drake's Diamond Gallery.

... SUCCESS continued from page 18

three different times," said Vangie.

The Richs said that they are very pleased with the other actors and the director, Laura Skaug. Curtis said, "When you're doing a show like this, the supporting cast is extremely important. It makes the show! They deserve a lot of credit." "Laura has been great to work with," Curtis said. "We have been very impressed with the way she takes the time to develop each character," Vangie said.

Curtis and Vangie said they were impressed with David Long's performance in his role of playing Billy, the grandson. "David does a good job in front of the public," said Curtis. "He has been before the congregation many times reading scriptures, even at a younger age." Vangie told the story about how David was hired. "The [director] told us, 'Nobody has auditioned for this part.'" That was when she thought of David Long. "So, I said I knew of one person that may like to do it, and when they agreed to let him audition, I was excited because I knew he would do a good job, and plus the fact that I wanted to work with him. This gave us the opportunity to help him learn a new skill."

David says he enjoys being something that is the complete opposite of his personality. He also says he's happy to have the experience, and it's something he wants to do again.

Concerning how politics and acting relate, Curtis says Ronald Reagan was one of his favorite people, and he says acting con-

tributed to Reagan's personality. "All politicians act to some extent," Curtis continued. Curtis also stated that his acting helped him as mayor of Crystal River. Curtis believes that John McCain's time as a prisoner of war in Vietnam had a big effect on the rest of his life.

"Your imagination has to do a lot with acting and everything in life," Curtis said. To illustrate his point, Curtis told a story of one of McCain's friends from prison. "One of [McCain's] friends that was in the same prison practiced at least one round of golf in his mind every day. He was there almost the same length of time. When he came out of prison and he got home, within three weeks he was back on the golf course winning championships, because in his imagination he had played a game every day." Curtis continued, "That's acting to some extent - acting through your thoughts. So, your thoughts and your imagination have a lot to do with it. So, I'm sure presidential candidate McCain probably used a lot of those techniques, because we were taught that in service."

But when asked if he believes John McCain or Barack Obama would be a better actor, Curtis said it would be a toss up.

Don't miss Curtis' and Vangie's polished performance now on stage at The Highlands Playhouse through Sunday, July 20.

For tickets call the Box Office at 526-2695.



Page Bernstein, Dr. Doug Landwehr and David Wilkes are now on the Land Trust board of directors.

Land Trust board of directors changes

The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust is pleased to announce that three new members have been added to the board of directors for three year terms. All three are well known community leaders both in Highlands and in Cashiers.

Page Bernstein is a retired US Army officer, retiring in 1988. His assignments included over 16 years in Europe and two tours of Viet Nam. He and his wife Sally have lived in the Cashiers area since 1991, and have been full time residents since 1998. He and Sally are the parents of three children and grandparents of eight grandchildren.

Page has been active in preservation of these mountains since retiring. He has worked with others to manage growth through thoughtful land management applications with emphasis on the availability of water. He was a member of the Jackson County Planning Board, the Board of the Cashiers Community Center, Board of the Village Green, and is a multi-year Director of the Cashiers Valley Rotary Club.

Dr. Doug Landwehr is a retired nephrologist, graduating from Tulane Medical School and Cornell University Medical School. He was last employed by Geisinger Medical Center, Pennsylvania State University, where he was the Director of the Department of Nephrology. He and his wife Barbara live in the Queen Mountain Community. They have two married daughters.

Active in the Highlands Plateau Fly Fishing Club and the Audubon Society, Doug appreciates the need to conserve wildlife habitat. He also serves on the Greenway Board of Directors and volunteers for the NC Wildlife Commission with the Peregrine Falcon project. Most

recently he was active in the Highlands Plateau being designated an Important Birding Area (IBA) by the National Audubon Society.

David Wilkes has been a resident of Highlands since 1982. He and his wife Carol own and operate the Highland Hiker in both Highlands and Cashiers. Since their two sons, Christopher and Jonathan, both graduated from Highlands School, David was active in many school related activities including PTO and the Educational Excellence Committee. He also served briefly on the board of Summit Charter School in Cashiers. He was president of the Highlands Merchants Association, board member of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, and is currently president of the Highlands ABC board and Trillium Homeowners' Association.

HCLT is pleased to announce that Charlie McDowell, a member of the board of directors since 1970 has been awarded Emeritus status. Also, Woodrow Wilson, a long time member of the board has been elected to the Emeritus board. It is with gratitude for many years of service that these two distinguished community leaders are added to this rank of distinction.

HCLT welcomes these three new board members who bring added expertise in conservation as we enter a century of land protection. And, we appreciate and honor our two veteran Emeritus board members. HCLT's mission is to protect and preserve land resources for this and future generations. With the knowledge and skills of three new board members, combined with the experience of our Emeritus board members, we anticipate a record-setting land protection year in 2009 as we celebrate 100 years of saving special places.

... LETTERS continued from page 2

Brugger is off base

Dear Editor,

In reading the July 10 edition of Highlands' Newspaper paper, I noticed and read the column by your ultra-liberal Katie Brugger entitled "It's Up From Eden" where she stated what she believes is the main difference between liberals and

conservatives.

I don't think she is even close in the main difference. I believe the main difference is as follows.

Conservatives believe they live in a nation where people can make choices as to how to live their lives. They could choose

where to live, to work or not, what kind of a job, whether to go to school and for how long, what to eat, what to buy, what to spend their money on and on and on and on. And MOST importantly, they realize that with choices come consequences of those choices. Some consequences good, others bad. If you spend all your paycheck, your savings will be little. If you eat too much, you get fat. If you go to school, you will have a better job.

Liberals don't believe we are totally capable of making such choices because they don't want us to pay for the consequences of bad choices. Therefore, they continue to want more regulation of our lives so those so called bad consequences will be eliminated.

Personally, I would prefer the right to make my choices in life. And I am ok with the consequences of those choices.

Jim Riddle
Highlands, NC

Affordable housing idea no good

Dear Editor,

The town's "no brainer" for affordable housing will in 8-10 years evolve into another deteriorating apartment complex. The owners of these failing franchises will, rather than bear the expense of renovation and repair, sell out. The new owners will then exploit this situation to the detriment of our entire community.

The decent people who have brought into this scheme will eventually move out as their living conditions deteriorate. The surrounding community will then be at the mercy of yet another drug and crime infested area. This very scenario happens time and time again and can happen right here in Highlands.

So Mayor Mullen, is the Town Board willing and able to afford additional police to combat the additional crime your proposal will bring to our community? This is a very expensive proposition for all of us.

Jan Knight
Highlands

Unsung Heroes

Dear Editor,

Sunday I arrived at our business complex, Twigs at Highlands Edge at around 9 a.m. to ready our shops for opening at 10 a.m. only to find there was no power at two stores, Twigs on the Rocks and Twigs the Season.

I called the appropriate emergency number and the town's utility employees came within 15 minutes and power was restored within 30. Amazing! We have experienced similar extra-ordinary customer service from the town's sanitation group and front office.

We salute each of these people: thank you for all you do, often uncelebrated and unnoticed, to keep our town the great place it is.

Mal Phillips Twigs LLC
Highlands

Brugger is right on

Dear Editor,

Those of us who appreciate Katie Brugger's calm, carefully reasoned and logical opinions and look forward to them each week in Highlands' Newspaper, are

• See LETTERS page 35



There's Lots To See At Highlands Cove.

At Highlands Cove, we offer an exceptional variety of homesites: Densely wooded with oaks, hemlocks, laurel and rhododendrons. Panoramic views of the Blue Ridge. Or a site overlooking our golf course. We're a 430-acre, master-planned community soaring to 4,700 feet above sea level. The average lot size is 4/5 of an acre. The residential area is gated. Our amenities include a clubhouse, a fine restaurant, 18 holes of golf, tennis and a fitness center. And most importantly, choice lots in such splendid mountain surroundings with a Highlands address are more and more difficult to find. Come see for yourself. There's lots to see.

We're located six miles east of Highlands on Highway 64. Homesites are priced from \$295,000. Single-family homes begin in the low 900,000s. Condominium homes are available from \$595,000. For information, visit the sales office adjacent to the entry gate. Call 828-526-8128 or toll free 1-866-220-2209. Or visit our web site: www.highlandscove.com.



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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

'The Best of Parallel Lives' continues Thursday - Saturday at ITC

It's another hit show! The Instant Company presents another hit by the Highlands Cashiers Players with, "The Best of Parallel Lives." Playing July 17-19 the cast of 9 women have brought back to the stage all the best-loved vignettes from Parallel Lives I and Parallel Lives II, written by Kathy Najimy and Mo Gaffney.

"The Best of Parallel Lives" is a quirky look at life in all it's sordid splendor.

Katie Cochran and Jennier Royce portray a pair of world-weary bar-room philosophers who will win your heart. Other cast members bring to life such characters as Shakespearean actors; a



Katie Cochran and Jennier Royce in "Hank and Karen Sue"

young couple on a first date; and a unique group therapy session.

The talented cast is comprised of Donna Cochran, Katie Cochran, Bonnie Earman, Jenny King, Gloria Pariseau, Jennifer Royce, Diane Rosazza, Ronnie Spilton and Breta Stroud.

The show is rated "R" for language and mature content.

All shows are held in The Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main at 310 Main Street, upstairs at Oak Square. The intimate theatre has elevator access. Doors open at 7:30

and the performance begins at 8 p.m.

Call the Instant Theatre Company box office to get your reservations for this last performance of "The Best of Parallel Lives." 828-342-9197.

On-going

• Raffle of handcrafted Stiefel Botanical Book to Benefit The Bascom. To purchase a raffle ticket, call Four different images will be available for sale and for raffle, so people can buy all four images for \$2,000 and have four difference chances of winning.

• The Zahner Conservation Lecture Series is held each Thursday during the summer months at 7p.m. at the Highlands Nature Center, 930 Horse Cove Rd. For a complete schedule, visit www.wcu.edu/hbs.

• Oak Street Café is donating a portion of its revenues to the Playhouse from meals purchased prior to show time. Park your car, have a meal, then walk across the street to the Playhouse production!

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

• 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 828-526-1F1T.

• "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.

Mondays & Wednesdays

• Pilates Classes Level 1 of Jane Woodruff at the hospital at 4 p.m. \$10 per class. Call 526-5852.

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.

Mondays

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

• At the Nature Center, Animal Feeding Time 11 a.m.-noon, all ages welcome: Come and observe what each of the Nature Center's animals eat and learn how they feed.

Tuesdays

• At the Nature Center, Family Nature Activity 3-4 p.m., ages 4 and up: Activities vary, but may include critter searches, discovery walks, or nature games \$1 per person.

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

• See EVENTS page 28



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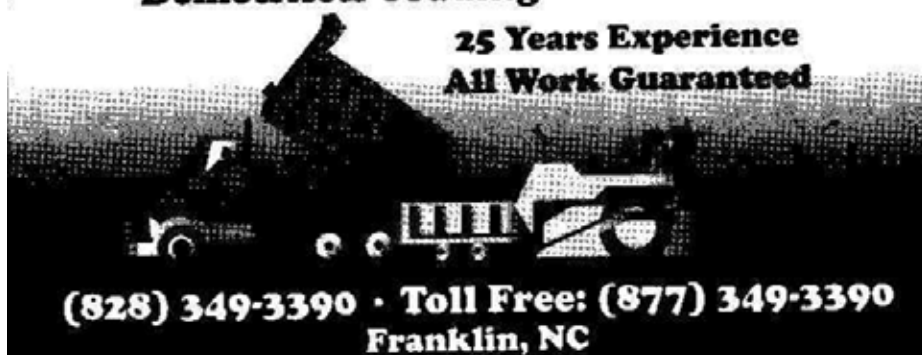
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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Fisher Estate gardens on tour Saturday



A series of tours of the exquisite Fisher Gardens atop Sage Woods are underway. The tour is sponsored by the Highlands Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. All proceeds go to the Incarnation Haitian Initiative to build a Community School in Cange.

Leneus Joseph, who is visiting Highlands with his wife and two daughters, is the founder and director of La Pleiade School in Cange, Haiti. There are six hundred-thirty students in this K-12 community school which meets during the week in the village's small Baptist Church, in Leneus' home, and under make-shift shelters. When the average annual income in Haiti is \$400 and the cost of a school uniform is \$20, it is easy to see that the parents and the students believe an education is vital to their future.

The proceeds from Fisher Garden tour will help build the building for the La Pleiade School students. It has been said "so these students will be able to go to school in dignity."

Saturday, July 19 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. the weather will be perfect for the stroll in a 360 degree view of the Highlands Cahiers Plateau. With so many new plants and features the Fisher Estate is the THE place to be this Saturday! The Fisher

Garden Tour Tickets will be on Sale at the Macon Bank Gazebo on Pine Street. Tickets are \$25.

Always in transition, this series of specific gardens and formal gardens will lead you past rose and dahlia beds, to a cutting garden and formal perennial creative by England's famous Rosemary Verey. An attractive vegetable garden lies below, followed by a stroll through a pear tunnel into the white garden. A formal boxwood parterre leads you into the terrace garden with a spectacular view of Whiteside Mountain, before you enter the sunken area. After passing the lower guest garden, you will come to shade and stump gardens, featuring favorite wildflowers. After viewing the angel in the reflection garden, you will discover the immaculate croquet garden, featuring a pair of niches from Elizabethan England.

Carpools will leave from the Pine Street Gazebo hourly from 9:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. The date are July 19, July 26 and August 2 Rain or Shine.

Tickets are \$25 and are available at the Episcopal Church, 520 Main Street during weekday office hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information call the church at (828) 526-2968. Tickets are also available at the Gazebo prior to the start of each tour time.

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

Wednesdays

• At the Nature Center, Nature Show & Tell/Storytime 2:30-3 p.m., all ages: Come for a nature lesson based around a children's storybook using items from the Nature Center.

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

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

Every Third Wednesday

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

1st & 3rd Thursdays

• The local affiliate of NAMI NC (National Alliance on Mental Illness), NAMI Appalachian South, meets from 7-9 p.m. at the Family Restoration Center, 1095 Wiley Brown Road, Franklin. NAMI offers peer sup-

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

port, education, and advocacy for individuals suffering from serious mental illness and their families and loved ones. Contact Ann Nandrea 369-7385, Carole Light 524-9769 or Mary Ann Widenhouse 524-1355 for more information.

Thursdays

• At the Nature Center, Zahner Conservation Lecture Series 7 p.m., 12 and up: An evening seminar

series featuring leading scientists, historians, writers and artists on a variety of environmental topics (schedule available at www.wcu.edu/hbs).

Fridays

• At the Nature Center, Botanical Garden Tour 10:30-11:30 a.m., all ages: A guided walk through the Highlands Botanical Garden, featuring the native plants

• See **EVENTS** page 30

Three booksignings at Cyrano's and a magic show at ITC

Along with three author appearances at the bookstore this weekend, Cyrano's is sponsoring a magic show and reading at the Instant Theatre Company on Sunday afternoon featuring famous magician Diana S. Zimmerman. This special event sure to delight children of all ages starts at 1 p.m. (see below). Other signings highlight a new inspirational book (Saturday), two historical thrillers (also Saturday), and nature photography (Sunday).

Abracadabra! On Sunday, July 20, at 1 p.m. Cyrano's brings you a magic show, reading and book signing at the Instant Theatre Company at 310 Main Street, upstairs at Oak Square. The renowned magician, motivational speaker and author Diana S. Zimmerman will read from her new book "Kandide and the Secret of the Mists" and perform feats of magic. Zimmerman has created illusions for both David Copperfield and Lance Burton, but she has been a headline performer in her own right, billed as the world's foremost lady magician. As a member of the Magic Castle, Hollywood's famous magic club, she and Cary Grant started a program for junior magicians. Zimmerman called on her love of mystery to writer "Kandide," the first of a trilogy of fantasy novels – The Calabiyau Chronicles – aimed at children and young adults but appealing to everyone, with lush, beautiful illustrations by Maxine Gadd. To cover the cost of renting the space, there will be an admission charge of \$5 for children and \$10 for adults for the performance.

On Saturday, July 19, from noon until 2 p.m., Kyle Roberts and Beverly Plimpton will sign "God's Invitation to More: A Divine Invitation to Depth, Dignity & Delight in Christ" which brings Christians to a deep and practical life of faith. It can be read personally or as a tool to help those younger in the faith in one-on-one or in small group settings. "God's Invitation to More" begins with a telling parable: A little girl looks up from a seat on the floor and observes her mother doing embroidery. From the child's point of view, the underside of the embroidery appears a confusing tangle of threads and knots. But when her mother takes the girl into her lap, where she can look down on to the embroidery, the child realizes it's a beautiful scene of a sunset. The authors say that many

times we have looked up from our own confused, difficult lives and asked God, "What are You doing?" And God replies, "I am embroidering your lives." Kyle is a Florida native; her degrees are in business and engineering. Bev is from New Hampshire; after nursing school she became involved in campus ministry. Both authors are particularly interested in mentoring women.

M.L. Malcolm will also sign at Cyrano's on Saturday, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. She fills her exciting novels with real incidents and historical figures, and then blends them with her own imaginary characters. "Silent Lies" and its sequel, "Deceptive Intentions" follow the adventurous life of Leo Hoffman from rural Hungary to Budapest, Shanghai and North Africa and span both World Wars and the post-war era. In her pages Hoffman gets caught up in criminal schemes, espionage and the Nazi war against the Jews. "Silent Lies" gives readers a feel for the last days of the Hapsburg empire, with its glittering social order and urban café society set amidst vast stretches of rural areas that haven't really changes for two centuries. "Deceptive Intentions" explores the inter-war period in Shanghai, when that cosmopolitan city was controlled by foreign governments and native mobsters. Best-selling author Karen White compares Malcolm's writing with that of Susan Howatch and Jeffrey Archer.

On Sunday at Cyrano's, from 2-4 p.m., photographer Bill L. Booz III signs copies of "Seasons and Colors of the Appalachian Mountains," his book of stunning photographs, which — as the Philadelphia Inquirer says — "favors North Carolina." Booz told the newspaper that "the mountains were bigger; I felt that they were more majestic. They created a better image, as far as the grandeur." And in fact more than half of the pictures were shot in the mountain ranges of western North Carolina. Back in 1999, at the age of 21, the New Jersey native spent seven months hiking the entire length of the Appalachian Trail, and it changed his life.

Cyrano's Bookshop is located at 390 Main Street in Highlands, North Carolina. Books can be reserved for autographing by calling (828) 526-5488 or sending an e-mail to cyranos@nctv.com; to learn more about our store please visit www.cyranosbooks.com



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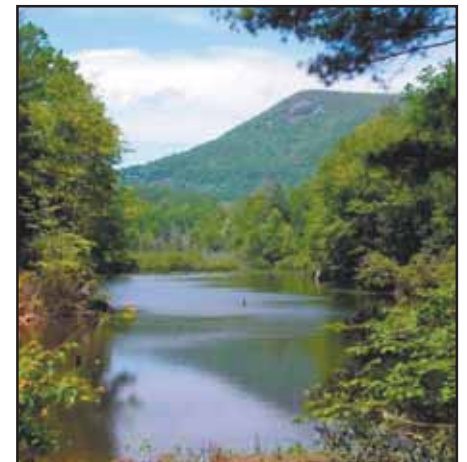
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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

of the region.

Friday & Saturday

• Live music at The Rib Shack every Friday and Saturday night from 8-11 p.m.

Friday-Sunday

• At Skyline Lodge & Restaurant. Hal Phillips at the piano, 7-9 p.m. Flat Mountain Road. 526-2121.

Saturdays

• At the Nature Center, Featured Creature 11:30-noon, all ages: come and learn more about one of the Nature Center's live animals up close.

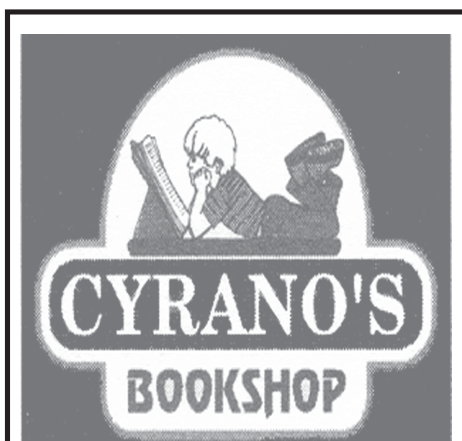
• Live music at Cyprus Restaurant at 9:30 p.m.

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

Sundays

• Old-fashioned hymn-sing at the Little Church of the Wildwood at 7 p.m. Call Kay Ward at 743-5009 for more information. Dress is casual.

Through Nov. 12



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www.cyranosbooks.com

Upcoming Book Signings

Saturday, July 19

12-2 pm

Roberts & Plimpton

“God’s Invitation to More.”

&

2:30-4:30 pm

M.L. Malcolm

“Silent Liew and Deadly Deceptions”

Sunday, July 20

2-4 p.m.

Bill Booz, III

“Season Colors of the Appalachian Mtns.”

Saturday, July 26

1-3 pm

Charles Martin

“Where the River Ends”

Saturday, August 9

1-3 p.m.

Charles F. Price

“Nor the Battle to the Strong”

Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 10-11

TBA

Philippa Gregory

“The Other Queen”

&

Ron Rash’s “Serena.”

‘Clarence Darrow’ at ITC Aug. 1-2 & 8-9

The Instant Theatre Company is proud to present consummate actor David Milford, as Clarence Darrow, the famous defense attorney known as, the Champion of the People. Clarence Darrow, the one-man, award winning play, is written by David W. Rintels, based on Irving Stone’s Clarence Darrow for the Defense. David W. Rintels, in addition to his writing talents, has a background

steeped in law. His first scripts were written for TV’s outstanding legal series, “The Defenders.” He has also written for many of TV’s other legal series, among them “Slattery’s People,” “The Senator,” and “The Young Lawyers.” Rintels has won the Writers Guild of America Award for Outstanding Dramatic Script, American Bar Association Gravel, and three Primetime Emmys as producer and writer. Irving Stone



is probably best known as the author who turned the biographical novel into an art form with such memorable works as Lust for Life (Van Gogh), The Agony and the Ecstasy (Michelangelo), Sailor on Horseback (Jack London), The Passions of the Mind (Freud), and Clarence Darrow for the Defense. In his critique of the play for the New York Times Clive Barnes wrote, “Just Plain Wonderful. I urge every man, woman and

child who cares about justice and America to see it.”

Opening August 1st Clarence Darrow will play the 2nd, 8th and 9th in the Instant Theatre Company’s Studio on Main at 310 Oak Square, Main Street, Highlands. For reservations call the box office at 828-342-9197. All performances are at 8 P.M. Visit the ITC website at Instanttheatre.org.

• The Village Green in Cashiers, NC presents Sculpture on the Green 2008 1st Bi-Annual Invitational Exhibition. Last summer the 12.5 acre park began to integrate sculpture into the landscape and installed 5 sculptures to its Permanent Collection. Starting this summer, it is hosting a six month exhibition of 10 works from sculptors from all over the nation. Cast your vote for the sculpture to be added to the Permanent Collection at the Green.

Through July 23

• At Summit One Gallery, New Works by Scott Upton.

Through July 31

• Summer Art Camp with The Bascom is teaming up with The Highlands Art League and the Highlands Recreation Park to present the camp, which will offer an exciting variety of art and craft projects for 5- to 13-year-olds. The day rate for Bascom students is \$5. There will be no additional charge for students enrolled in Rec Camp. Hours are 1 to 1:45 p.m. for 5- to 8-year-olds and 2 to 2:45 p.m. for 9- to 13-year-olds. For more information or to register, call The Bascom at (828) 526-4949, ext. 4#.

• Mirror Lake Association meeting 7:30 p.m. at the Rec Park.

Thurs.-Sat., July 17-19

• “The Best of Parallel Lives,” at The Instant Theatre Company on Main Street. The comedy hit of the season returns with your favorites. For reservations call the ITC Box Office at 828-342-9197

Thurs.-Sun., through July 20

• At Highlands Playhouse, “On Golden Pond.” For further information or reservations please call 828-526-2695.

Through Sat., July 19

• Sale at the Cashiers Library. Stock up on books, DVDs, and CDs at bargain prices says Dianne Ray, book sale chairman for the Friends of the Library. “We

Portraits and figures exhibition opens July 19 at The Bascom

“Portraits and Figures” is the next exhibition slated for The Bascom this month. Opening July 19 and running through Aug. 14, the exhibition showcases artworks from multiple collections that explore several artists’ approach to the portrait and figure. Among the works that will be exhibited are Chuck Close, Matisse, a life-sized puppet from 1750 and many others.

People have been drawing images of themselves and others for thousands of years. The oldest known portrait is about 27,000 years old. It was found by Gerard Jourdy near Angouleme, France, and predates the cave drawings of Lascaux by 10,000 years. It has a Modigliani quality to it with elongated features and narrowed eyes.

Ever since people first made what we call art, they have been fascinated with their own image and have used the human body to express ideas and

ideals. Popular culture in the 21st century

continues to be obsessed with beautiful people: Ten Best Dressed Women, 50 Sexiest Men, for example.

Many of today’s collectors respond to the different ways in which art communicates through figurative works so many different things: great physical or idealized beauty, symbolic portraits, accurate likeness and spiritual beauty. And they include these works in their collections.

The Bascom will host a free public opening reception on Saturday, July 19, from 5 to 7 p.m. The exhibition then runs through Aug. 14. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Bascom is located inside the Hudson Library, on Main Street in Highlands.

For more information, call The Bascom at

(828) 526-4949, ext. 1#.



This life-sized puppet from 1750 is part of Marsha and Jim Meadows’ private collection.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

'Be Green Fair' set for Aug. 1 & 2 at Rec Park

As the cost of home energy bills, groceries and fuel continues to rise, it's easy to see why the "Green" movement is sweeping the nation. This movement has quickly made its way from "hippie" trend to "mainstream" reality and offers many opportunities to make changes that will fit into any lifestyle.

To provide area residents and visitors an opportunity to become more familiar with the concepts of green living, the Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance (J-MCA) is hosting a Green Living Fair at the Highlands Civic Center (aka Highlands Rec. Park), rain or shine. The event begins Friday night, August 1 at 6:30 pm with a spaghetti dinner and a highly anticipated program lead by guest speaker Ned Ryan Doyle, all for a cost of only \$5.

Ned Ryan Doyle has been active in sustainable energy and environmental issues for over 30 years, providing presentations and workshops nationwide on topics ranging from composting and green building to solar and wind power systems. Ned has worked first hand on energy efficient housing, bio-fuels, renewable energy and other essentials for sustainable living. His programs provide options for a sustainable future, making environmental conservation and economic stability 'two sides of the same coin.'

Doyle's level of expertise speaks for itself: Coordinator of the 8th Annual Southern Energy & Environment Expo (www.seeexpo.com), the largest event in the South with 8,000 participants in 2007; host of Thursday morning's "The News from Back Home" and the Sunday morning "Our Southern Community" public affairs program exploring issues of energy, environment and economics and

featuring free downloads of programs exploring current regional utility and energy issues, both on WNCW 88.7 FM Spindale, NC, (www.wncw.org); co-host of the "Green Radio Bistro," (www.sustainablenow.us); and author of numerous articles in national publications.

Saturday August 2, begins with a produce tailgate market held in the parking lot of the Civic Center from 8-11 am. It will offer a variety of locally-grown produce, honey, eggs, homemade breads, cut flowers and more.

The Green Living Fair will be held from 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday. The Civic Center gymnasium will be host to 30+ vendors and conservation groups providing information and goods for easy ways to live green, home products, health, beauty & body care, gardening & farming, conservation, composting, recycling, green home design, building & remodeling, indoor air quality, renewable energy, solar power, living off the grid, "green" automobiles and legislative incentives. Food will be available as well.

The venue also offers a separate area for discussion sessions which will be held throughout the day. There will be an area designated for children that will include story times, a hand made toy workshop and other projects sure to educate and entertain. A schedule of discussion sessions and children's programs can be found at the J-MCA website. Additionally, J-MCA will be collecting the following recycled items: old cell phones (with battery), old rechargeable batteries and printer cartridges.

The charge for the event is \$5 for adults, \$3 for teens, and is free for children. Please visit www.j-mca.org or call (828) 526-9938, ext. 320 for further details. We look forward to seeing you there!



Green Living Fair

- At Cyrano's Book Shop on Main Street, Roberts & Plimpton will be signing "God's Invitation to More" from noon to 2 p.m. and M.L. Malcolm will sign "Silent Liew and Deadly Deceptions" from 2:30-4:30 p.m.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 6-mile moderate hike on the Standing Indian Horse Trail from Yellow Patch to the Appalachian Trail, returning to Betty Gap. Drive 40 miles round trip. Meet at the Westgate Plaza (across from Burger King) in Franklin at 10 a.m. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

- Fisher Garden Tour atop Sagee Woods. Carpools leave from Pine Street Gazebo hourly 9:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and proceeds fund the

Community School in Cange, Haiti. Rain or shine.

Sunday, July 20

- At First Presbyterian Church, Kirkin of the Tartans at 11 a.m. followed by a luncheon at First Baptist Church featuring Dr. Elizabeth Kiss, president of Agnes Scott University.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a two mile easy hike to Mud Creek Falls near Sky Valley, with a gentle climb to the falls and an old covered bridge at the trail head. Meet at the Smoky Mt. Visitor's Center in Otto, at 2 p.m. Drive 12 miles roundtrip or call leader for alternate meeting place if coming from Cashiers or Highlands. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people; reservations are required. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations or more information.

• See EVENTS page 32

The Instant Theatre Company presents the Highlands Cashiers Players production of...

Best of Parallel Lives

Written by Kathy Najimy & Mo Caffney

Adult Language and Mature Content PG-13

Directed by Jenny King & Mary Adair Leslie

Thursday, Friday, & Saturday, JULY 10, 11, 12, JULY 17, 18, 19

8:00 p.m.

HCP
HIGHLANDS/CASHIERS PLAYERS

Box Office: 828-342-9197

Instant Theater Company, Studio on Main, 310 Main Street, Highlands, NC

Highness, The Prince of Wales.

Friday, July 18

- Mountain Music will abound in Highlands School old gym featuring, Appalachian Bluegrass and High Mountain Squares. Square dancing and clogging will entertain and involve audiences beginning at 6:45 P.M. Concerts will run between 7:30 and 9 every Friday. These free concerts are sponsored by the Just for You Relay for Life team. This year's Relay for Life Event will be held in Cashiers on Friday, August 22.

- Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival: Edoardo Catemario, guitarist and The Vega String Quartet; 7:30 PM Highlands Performing Arts Center, 526-9060.

- Ballroom Dance at the MC Community Building, on Hwy. 441 S. in Franklin, from 6:30-9 pm with music by "Swingtime Band," for information call (828),

369-9155 or 586-6373.

Saturday, July 19-Thursdays, Aug. 14

- "Portraits and Figures" exhibition will be held at The Bascom, center for the visual arts, from July 19 to Aug. 14. An opening reception will be held July 19 from 5 to 7 p.m. The art center is located inside the Hudson Library, on Main Street in Highlands, NC. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is free. For information, call (828) 526-4949, email info@thebascom.org or visit www.thebascom.org.

Saturday-Sunday, July 19- 20

- The Summer Colors Fine Art Show at the Rec Park from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Featuring more than 50 regional artists.

Saturday, July 19

- At Scudder's Gallery on Main Street an auction at 11 a.m.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

tion. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

- Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival: Edoardo Catemario, guitarist and The Vega String Quartet; 5 p.m. at the Highlands Performing Arts Center, call 526-9060.

- At Cyrano's Book Shop on Main Street, Bill L. Booz III will be signing "Seasons and colors of the Appalachian Mountains" from 2-4 p.m.

- At ITC, magician, author, Diana S. Zimmerman will be signing "Kandide and the Secret Mists" from 1-3 p.m. at ITC where the event will include a reading from the book, a book signing and a magic show. Cost is \$5 for children, \$10 for adults.

- "Singles Meeting Singles" gathering from adults ages 40-70, 5:30 at a residence in Whiteside Cove. Call Nancy at 787-1515.

Monday, July 21

- The July meeting of the Jackson County Republican Organization is scheduled for 7 p.m., at the Jackson County Republican Headquarters located at 482 West Main St. in downtown Sylva. Organization members, registered Republicans and all interested residents are invited to attend. The agenda includes planning general election strategies, campaign organization and distribution of candidate signage and bumper stickers including those for local candidates and John McCain. Monthly meetings of the Jackson County Republican Organization are held on the third Monday of every month. For additional information call Republican Headquarters at 828 586.9895 or visit the website at www.jacksoncountygop.com.

Tuesday, July 22

- At Highlands-Cashiers-Asheville Chiropractic's Cashiers office at Laurel Terrace, "Autoimmune Disease: Have you been told you have thyroid problems? BUT...is it Autoimmune?" The approach is different...We will also discuss autoimmune in general. Free. Call 828-743-9070 or 828-526-3709 to register.

- At PAC, downstairs, an Alfred Hitchcock movie "The Lodger" at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments begin at 7 p.m. If there is interest "Sabotage" can also be shown.

Wednesday, July 23

- At Scudders Gallery on Main Street, an auction of a Remington statue "The Rattlesnake" at 9:30 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the Highlands Playhouse.

- The Village Nature Series is a free summertime lecture series co-hosted by Highlands-Cashiers Land

Trust & Village Green at the Cashiers Library. "Understanding the Black Bear" with Bill Lea. Everyone is welcome. Lectures are held at the Albert Carlton Library in Cashiers. Lectures begin at 6:30 PM. Refreshments follow. There is no charge but donations are graciously accepted. Call HCLT for info: 526.1111.

- The free Interlude concerts presented by the First Presbyterian Church held on Wednesdays at 2 p.m. Dress is casual. Featuring, Gerald Carper, organist on the church's Wicks Pipe Organ.

Thurs.-Sun., July 24-Aug. 10

- At Highlands Playhouse, "70th Anniversary Diamond Review." For further information or reservations please call 828-526-2695.

Thursday-Sunday, July 24-27

- At Acorn's on Main Street, a Slane and Slane Jewelry Trunk Show. Distinctive finishes in both their sterling silver and 18 karat gold designs, Slane & Slane's Collections are appreciated both for their understated elegance as well as for their playful exuberance.

Thursday, July 24

- The Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet will be featured in the annual Picnic-Concert at the Zachary-Talbot House in Cashiers sponsored by the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival. Bring a picnic and a blanket and enjoy this fun and informal outdoor concert in the Pavilion. Begins at 5:30 PM; No admission charge.

- Movie time at the Cashiers Library at 7 p.m. "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street" is the 2006 movie adaptation of the Broadway musical by Stephen Sondheim. It is rated R for violence. The movies and the popcorn are free, but donations are appreciated.

Friday & Saturday, July 25-26

- "Foxfire," a play based on the living history of Rabun County. 7 p.m. at the Dillard Playhouse, in Dillard, Ga. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 11. Call 706-212-2500.

Monday-Friday, July 21-25

- At Community Bible Church a "Wild Ride Thru the Bible," an interactive, fun way to learn the whole story of the Bible in just five days. It's 9 a.m.-noon and open to anyone, from rising 4th graders to adults. A \$12 fee will be charged to cover costs and a new New King James version of the bible. Registration is required, call our church office 828-526-4685. If you've

ever wondered what the Bible is all about and how it all connects you will gain from Patty Cannon, our teacher's, "hands on" approach to guiding you through the big story of God's message to man. Please come and check it out!

Friday, July 25

- Mountain Music will abound in Highlands School old gym featuring, The Dendy Family and High Mountain Squares. Square dancing and clogging will enter-

tain and involve audiences beginning at 6:45 P.M. Concerts will run between 7:30 and 9 every Friday. These free concerts are sponsored by the Just for You Relay for Life team. This year's Relay for Life Event will be held in Cashiers on Friday, August 22.

- Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival: Richard Stoltzman, clarinet; Laura Gordy, piano; Cecylia Arzewski, violin; Yasuo Watanabe, piano; Miles Hoffman, viola; Christopher Rex, cello; 7:30 PM High-

Bel Canto star takes reins as artistic director for 16th annual recital

The Sixteenth Annual Bel Canto Recital will be Sept. 7 and the subscription letter announcing the guest artists to previous subscribers has just gone out.

Stella Zambalis, the new artistic director, has been working hard over the winter to get some top-notch performers.

W. Stell Huie, Bel Canto's new committee chair has said "We could not be more pleased that an artist of Stella Zambalis' stature has accepted the position of Artistic Director for our Bel Canto Concert Series."

Stella Zambalis is a regular guest of leading opera companies and concert stages here in the United States, South America and Europe. Ms. Zambalis has created several new roles, including: Cherubino in The Ghosts of Versailles for the Metropolitan Opera; the Stepmother in Philip Glass' and Robert Moran's The Juniper Tree; The Woman in Robert Moran's Desert of Roses for the Houston Grand Opera; and the title role in the world premiere of Rachel for the Knoxville Opera, with additional performances in Nashville with Nashville Opera.

Opera conductors usually wax poetic about their current projects, but Eastman Opera Theatre director Benton Hess can be blunt. For example, he recently said, "Watching a soprano take on Norma is like watching Evel Knieivel try to jump a canyon. It's a dangerous feat." So when Hess ran into a

soprano who told him she wanted to sing it in Rochester, he remembers there being a long, awkward pause. Hess, who owns 23 recordings of the 1831 Vincenzo Bellini opera, was talking with his friend, Stella Zambalis. He mentioned the fact that a new company, Mercury Opera Rochester, was starting up, and he asked her what role she'd most like to sing. Zambalis didn't miss a beat. "Norma," she replied. "I sorta blanched," Hess recalls with a short laugh. "I thought for a full minute, 'Can she really sing Norma?' Then I smiled and said, 'OK. We'll do it.'" Zambalis remembers that moment, too. "It's scary," she says of Bellini's masterpiece. It's also the pinnacle of any soprano's career. She performed the role of the Druid priestess to rave reviews in January of 2007. "Now I know why Maria Callas studied the role for three and a half years before singing it," Zambalis says. "It's intimidating." Those who attended the 2003 Bel Canto Recital will remember that Ms. Zambalis first performed "Casta Diva" here in Highlands.

The Bel Canto Recital will be held at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Sept. 7 at 4 p.m. The performance will be followed by a sumptuous buffet at Highlands Country Club.

For more information or to order tickets, please call 828.526.9074 or you can write to us at P.O. Box 2392, Highlands, NC 28741.

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

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

HELPWANTED

ASSISTANT MANAGER – for Ladies boutique in Highlands. Experience preferred. Call 526-8555.

PART-TIME CLEANERS NEEDED TO CLEAN BANKS – in Highlands area. Call Linda at 828-691-6353.

HOUSEKEEPER – Needed one day weekly, must know how to iron. Call 526-2258. 7/17

HIGHLANDS INN AND KELSEY PLACE RESTAURANT now hiring Lunch Servers. Apply in person at 420 Main Street or call for an interview. 526-9380.

SOUS CHEF – Experience required. Full time position available. Team player. Call 787-2200.

AUTO DETAILER NEEDED. EXPERIENCE PREFERRED. Must be neat in appearance and have

good driving record. Call Johnny at 743-5813.

IRONER – in private home. One day a week. 5 hours. Sheets, shirts. Call 828-787-2031.

FRESSERS EATERY – Hiring experienced wait staff and line cook. Apply in person at 151 Helen's Barn.

SCALY MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR CENTER – Now hiring, cooks, dishwashers, wait staff and general help. Call Brenda at 526-1663.

PART-TIME RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY – The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation is looking for a part-time receptionist (Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9 am-1 pm). If you are interested, please submit resumes to PO Box 729 Highlands, NC 28741.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH is accepting resumes for an Office Assistant. Computer skills, people skills and creative abilities are required. 828-526-

4685 or office@cbchighlands.com

LAUNDRY ATTENDANT needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full-time, day shift position available. Position requires weekend rotation and holidays. Salary based 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 Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

MAINTENANCE MECHANIC - needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full-time position available for day shift. Knowledge and skills in physical plant maintenance: carpentry, electrical, HVAC, and plumbing. Computer experience preferred. Must be able to be on call one week per month, assist with community health screening set up and winter snow/ice removal.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

First Presbyterian 'Concert Series' continues

On Wednesday, July 23, the second Musical Interlude Concert of the 2008 season will take place at the First Presbyterian Church at 2 p.m. Featured will be Gerald Carper, organist.

The Wicks Pipe Organ at the Presbyterian Church was recently featured in "The American Organist" magazine, an international publication. The organ, which was dedicated in 2004, has about 1,000 pipes featuring stenciling, a design element popular many years ago.

The Interlude Concert Series is presented by First Presbyterian Church of Highlands and is celebrating its 10th season. Concerts will be presented every other Wednesday through Aug. 20.

There is no admission charge for the concerts, which constitute a ministry in music to the many visitors, members and friends of the church.

The concert will last approximately 45 minutes. Dress is casual. Come as you are.

lands Performing Arts Center, 526-9060

Saturday, July 26

- At ...on the Verandah with Cyprus Restaurant, "Slow Cooking...Make Your Party Easy" cooking demonstration noon to 2 p.m. \$89 per person plus tax. Call 526-2338 for reservations.

- At Cyrano's Book Shop on Main Street, Charles Martin will sign "Where the River Ends" from 1-3 p.m.

- Montana Skies in Concert Jennifer & Jonathan Adams create a new acoustic sound with the pairing of guitar and cello, ranging from Vivaldi and Bach to Rush and Pink Floyd to their own award winning compositions. At the ITC's Studio on Main at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$25

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 6-mile moderate-to-strenuous hike, with a 300 foot elevation change, to Ellicott's Rock where three states' boundaries meet on the Chattooga River. Take a dip in the river if you wish. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10 am; drive 40 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

- Snake program at the Highlands Nature Center. 7-8 pm, all ages. An educational presentation on regional snakes featuring live animals. Learn species identification, snake natural histories, and some of the misconceptions about them. \$2 per person. Call 526-2623 or visit www.wcu.edu/hbs/Naturecenter.htm for more information.

- Fisher Garden Tour atop Sage Woods. Car-

pools leave from Pine Street Gazebo hourly 9:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and proceeds fund the Community School in Cange, Haiti. Rain or shine.

- International Festival Day in Downtown Waynesville, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It's Free!

Sunday, July 27

- Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival Richard Stoltzman, clarinet; Laura Gordy, piano; Cecylia Arzewski, violin; Yasuo Watanbe, piano; Miles Hoffman, viola; Christopher Rex, cello; 5 PM Highlands Performing Arts Center, 526-9060.

- The Up, Up, and Away Gala benefiting the Highlands Community Development Center is at the Highlands Country Club. It will feature the well-known group Class Act of Atlanta and life-size dolls created by Peggy Payne will transform the clubhouse. Proceeds from the dinner gala and silent auction will help support the development center. Tickets are \$150. If you can't attend the gala, donations will be accepted. For information or to make reservations, call Ann Martin at 526-0115.

- At Cullasaja Assembly of God Youth Picnic at 6:30 p.m. at 6201 Highlands Rd. Franklin. Cook out! Games! Music! Prizes! and more! Questions call Youth ministers Matt and Candace Woodroof at 828-369-7540 or check out our web site www.cullasajaag.org

Monday-Saturday, July 28-Aug. 9

- Summer Courses offered at the Highlands Biological Station. Spiders of the Southern Appalachians. For program descriptions and information about costs, academic credit, instructors, and prerequisites for our summer courses and workshops visit <http://>

• See **EVENTS** page 34

Fire & Rescue Open House Aug. 2



This annual event is fun for the entire family. The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. celebrates 55 years of service with an open house on Saturday, Aug. 2 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the station on Oak Street. Hotdogs and drinks will be served free, trucks and equipment will be on display and rides on the fire truck are planned as usual.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

'Clemson Colony' featured on this year's Historical Society Tour

Highlands Historical Society will once again host Highlands Annual Tour of Historic Homes on Saturday, Aug. 9. This year's event will feature 6 cabins in the "Clemson Colony," an early Highlands Community that consists of cabins originally belonging to professors of Clemson University.

The colony is located along the south shore of Mirror Lake on Cullasaja Drive. Three of the historic homes featured are excellent examples of Joe Webb design and construction.

A general admission ticket of \$40 will include a tour of all 6 homes and refreshments. The tour will run from 10

a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9. Shuttles will leave from the Recreation Center with the last shuttle leaving at 2:45 p.m. Tickets for the event may be purchased at Country Club Properties, The Highlander Newspaper, Cyrano's Bookshop, Macon Bank or at the Recreation Center on the day of the tour.

Funds raised by this event will go to the support of the Historic Village, which is open each Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. throughout the summer. For more information visit the Historical Society's Web site, www.highlandshistory.com.

• CLASSIFIEDS •

Supervisor skills needed. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

FOUNDATION ASSISTANT/DATA ENTRY CLERK- needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full time position available. Responsibilities include basic clerical duties. Experience working in a multi-person office with knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel. Work experience in business and/or fundraising field preferred. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical

insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

FOOD SERVICE MANAGER needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full-time position. At least two years experience in institutional/food service environment with knowledge of therapeutic diets, food safety and sanitation guidelines needed. Experience with purchasing and inventory preferred. Must be a self-starter with strong organizational and managerial skills. 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 required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

EXPERIENCED ER NURSE needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full time and PRN positions

available. ACLS certification required. PALS and TNCC certifications are desired. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

CNA OR CNA II at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full-time positions available for ER, Acute Care and Hospice. Self starter with experience preferred. Our wage scale is \$11 to \$14.40 per hour, and you also receive shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of employment. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Human Resources, 828-526-1301 or apply online at

www.hchospital.org.

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.

RNS at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Fidelity 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

• See **CLASSIFIEDS** page 34

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

www.wcu.edu/hbs/currentcources.htm or call 526-2602.

Thursday, July 31

• Movie time at the Cashiers Library at 7 p.m. "Once" is a modern day musical set in Dublin. This 2006 movie is rated R for language. It is rated R for violence. The movies and the popcorn are free, but donations are appreciated.

All of August

• At Acorn's on Main Street, it's Juliska Month. Juliska's rich European heritage spans six centuries and combines historic shapes with imaginative new

interpretations of glass and ceramic for home décor and tableware.

Friday, Aug. 1

• Mountain Music will abound in Highlands School old gym featuring, Mountain Faith (The McMahan Family) and The Country Kickin Cloggers. Square dancing and clogging will entertain and involve audiences beginning at 6:45 P.M. Concerts will run between 7:30 and 9 every Friday. These free concerts are sponsored by the Just for You Relay for Life team. This years Relay for Life Event will be held in Cashiers on Friday, August 22.

• Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival: Charae Krueger, cello; William Preucil, violin; Valerie Whitcup, harp; Janet Clippard, bass; Kate Ransom, violin; Helen Callus, viola; 7:30 PM Highlands Performing Arts Center, 526-9060.

• Green Living Fair at the Rec Park begins at 6:30 pm with a spaghetti dinner and a program lead by guest speaker Ned Ryan Doyle, coordinator of the 8th Annual Southern Energy & Environment Expo, who will speak about the movement. It's free.

Friday & Saturday, Aug. 1-2

• At Instant Theatre on Main Street, at 8 p.m., Clarence Darrow. Here is the famous attorney reminiscing over his long and renowned career. Socko theatre...gutsy, exciting, inspiring, funny and beautiful. Tickets: \$20.

Saturday, Aug. 2

• At ...on the Verandah with Cyprus Restaurant a Children's Cooking Class "Future Chefs of America" from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for ages 8-13. \$20 per person plus tax. Call 526-2338 for reservations.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3.5-mile moderate hike up Rock Mountain with an elevation change of 900 feet. Meet the Cashiers Wachovia bank (in back) at 9:30 a.m. Drive 4 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader Eva Hansen, 743-1611, between 6-9 p.m. for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

• Fisher Garden Tour atop Sagee Woods. Car-pools leave from Pine Street Gazebo hourly 9:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and proceeds fund the Community School in Cange, Haiti. Rain or shine.

• At Cyrano's Book Shop on Main Street, Charles F. Price will sign "Nor the Battle to the Strong" from 1-

A little bit of China in the mountains

In this summer of the Beijing Olympics the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival is bringing a little bit of China to the mountains. The Vega String Quartet is one of the Festival's most popular ensembles, and three of the four members of the group are originally from China.

This weekend the Vega will play the music of two Chinese composers: the hauntingly beautiful "Song of the Ch'in" by Zhou Long and "Eight Colors," by Tan Dun.

The chi'in is a traditional seven-stringed Chinese instrument in the zither family. A chi'in has a range of about four octaves with the lowest pitch about the lowest note on a cello, and it is played by plucking. Zhou Long says that the beginning of "Song of the Chi'in" sounds very much like a ch'in, even though it is played by traditional string quartet instruments.

Mr. Tan wrote about his composition "Eight Colors:" "In this work I draw on Chinese colors and the techniques of Peking Opera. The work consists of eight short sections, almost like a set of brush paintings, through which materials are shared and developed. Both the timbre and the string techniques are developed from Peking Opera; the vocalization of Opera actresses and Buddhist chanting can be heard."

Mr. Tan received international recognition in 1983 when his String Quartet (Feng Ya Song) won the Weber Prize from Dresden, making Tan the first Chinese



The Vega String Quartet will play music by two Chinese composers in this week's Chamber Music Festival concerts.

composer to win an international prize since the Communist Revolution of 1949.

Adding to the international flair of the weekend will be Italian guitarist Edoardo Catemario making his Festival debut. Catemario is one of Europe's leading classical guitarists and first-place winner of the prestigious Andres Seg-

ovia International Competition.

On Friday (in Highlands at 7:30 PM) and Saturday (in Cashiers at 5 PM) the Vega will play Debussy's beautiful Quartet, and Catemario will play solo works by tango-inspired Astor Piazzolla as well as music by the Argentine Alberto Ginastera. They will then join forces to perform the "Quintet for Guitar and Strings" by Castelnuovo-Tedesco.

Sunday (5 PM in Highlands) and Monday (5 PM in Cashiers) belongs to the Vega, Emory University's first-ever String Quartet in Residence, when they will perform String Quartets by Beethoven, Tchaikovsky and the two Chinese pieces.

The Festival offers a number of programs in addition to the weekend concerts, and on Thursday July 24th at 5:30 PM the Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet will be featured in the annual Picnic-Concert at the Zachary-Talbot House in Cashiers. Bring a picnic and a blanket and enjoy this fun and informal outdoor concert in the Pavilion. No admission charge.

For tickets and more information about the Festival's concerts, call 828-526-9060; online at h-cmusicfestival.org.

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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Understanding the Black Bear at Village Nature Series in Cashiers

On Wednesday, July 23 renowned nature photographer, Bill Lea, will present "Understanding the Black Bear," a FREE lecture, as part of the Village Nature Series in Cashiers. Capturing intimate images of wildlife, scenery, wildflowers, and a variety of other natural subjects in "just the right light" has long been the trademark of Bill's photography. He may best be known for his artistic documentation of deer and bear behavior, the various moods of the Great Smoky Mountains, and southern ecosystems. Photographing in the Smokies since 1975 has afforded this photographer limitless opportunities to observe and record the flora, fauna, and scenery of the region.



More than 6,000 of Bill's photos have been presented in an array of books, calendars, magazines, advertisements and other publications. His work has appeared in Audubon Calendars, Defenders of Wildlife, Exploring the Smokies, National Geographic books, Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife, and many others. His three front covers in a row was a first in Field & Stream's more than one hundred year history. His newest book, Cades Cove – Win-

dow to a Secret World, was released in September 2007 and is already in its second printing. When asked what he would like most to achieve through his photography, Bill replies, "I hope my images will promote a better understanding and appreciation for wildlife, the natural world, and most of all, our Creator."

The Village Nature Series has been made possible by a partnership between The Village Green and Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust. Lectures will take place monthly through September. This lecture will be held at The Pavilion at High Hampton in Cashiers at 6:30 p.m. An invitation is extended to all. Catered refreshments

will be served. Future speakers will include Steve Yurkovich who will present, "Making of the Mountains-a Geological Perspective" on August 27th and Brent Martin who will bring us, "Weaving Nature & Community into a Poetry of Place on September 24th (August and September lectures will be held at the Albert Carlton Library in Cashiers.) Mark your calendars for these events! For more information email Julie at julie.hitrust@earthlink.net or call HCLT at 526.1111.

Hotdogs and drinks served free of charge. Trucks and equipment will be on display including the new rescue truck. Rides on the fire truck are also planned.

3 p.m.

• Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. Open house celebrating 55 years of service from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Montana Skies coming to ITC July 26

A must see live concert experience: a duo with the full spectrum of an orchestra crossed with the energy of a rock band. Winners of the Lifestyle Radio Music Awards for Best New Artist of 2004 and Best Contemporary Acoustic Album of



2005, Jennifer and Jonathan Adams create a "new acoustic" sound with their pairing of cello, six-string electric cello, Spanish/classical guitar, and steel string guitar.

These astounding musicians delve into music from Pink Floyd and Rush to Vivaldi, House of the Rising Sun, and Bach, as well as their own award winning originals that have been featured everywhere from NPR to the Travel Channel.

Montana Skies' name is taken from one of the first songs Jonathan composed for the group titled "Montana Skies." The song was written specifically about being in Montana and the joy of inspiration

Jonathan felt from its natural beauty. At the time of its composition, he and Jennifer were completing their individual studies of music (he in Montana and she in Italy) and they realized that they would like to be

together. Written during a crucial turning point in their relationship, the song marked the beginning of the duo's musical collaboration and their newly found sound. Montana Skies maintains an active touring schedule.

Montana Skies plays in the Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main (60 seats) for one performance only. Saturday July 26 at 8 PM. Reservations are strongly recommended. Box office: 828-342-9197. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Half price for 18 years old and younger. Visit InstantTheatre.org for all Instant Theatre Company offerings.

... LETTERS continued from page 26

probably remiss in not writing to say so.

But what's to say? Because all we can say is, "Dear Editor, we agree with Katie and admire her forthrightness." Boring. But we should perhaps do it anyway.

Her critics on the other hand, are quite vocal, although they rarely address the points she makes, preferring to accuse her of a lack of patriotism, hinting that she should leave the country, wrapping themselves up in the flag and praising themselves for their own brand of jingoism.

Katie obviously loves her country or she wouldn't be so indignant at the way in

which so many of the American values of which we are so proud and that heretofore have been the envy of the rest of the world, have been trashed and dumped overboard in recent years.

Katie's critics are prone to use the ad hominem tactic to demean her – in debate, this means attacking your opponent personally, rather than attempting to refute her arguments. In a formal debate, this is the fastest way to lose points.

In other words – Dear Editor, I agree with Katie.

Beth Greenlee
Highlands

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 36

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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 34

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• CLASSIFIEDS •

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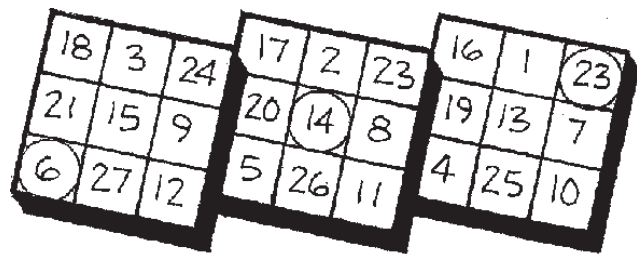


**Walk to downtown
Highlands from
this lot!**

Lot can be subdivided at 1 Acres each. Subject to zoning and approval of the city of Highlands. Spetic is available and so is water. A creek runs right through this property and a pond could easily be added!

• FUN & GAMES •

PseudoCube®



#BN4E – Level of Difficulty – Easy

THE SETUP:

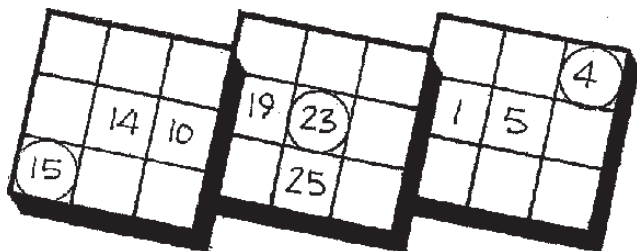
The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern: For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running through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

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com.
Feedback encouraged!

Solution to #AN3F in July 10 issue



N-Cryptoku®

Object: Assign 9 **different** letters to each cell of 9 columns and 9 rows. In addition, nine 3 x 3 cells in the layout have the same nine **different** letters (this is similar to Sudoku but uses nine letters instead of nine numbers). A 'mystery word or phrase' using all nine different letters is designated by circled squares (other short words appear when solving, for which a list of meanings is provided). Every puzzle has a different 'mystery word or phrase' (no spaces).

How to Solve: Determine the nine different letters among those given. Try to solve the mystery word using the clue given and write it in. Other small words will appear in the puzzle. As in conventional crossword puzzles, a list of meanings for these ACROSS/ DOWN words is given and number positions shown. Doing them will speed up your solution to the puzzle. Using your powers of induction, inference and insight, place missing letters in all blank squares according to the rules noted above. Focus attention where the least number of letters are needed to complete a line, column or 3 x 3 cell. Email: pseudocube8@aol.com. Feedback encouraged!

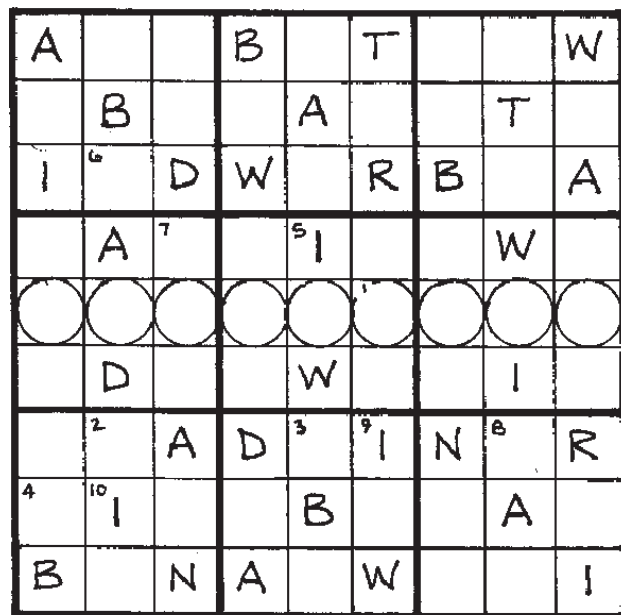
Mystery Word "bracelet" (9)

Across

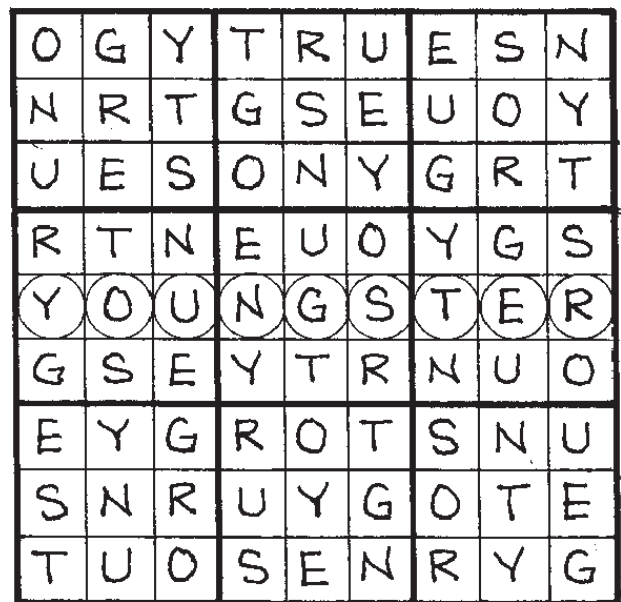
- Prohibition (3)
- Bunched masses (4)
- Misdeed against God (3)
- Filth (4)
- Ego (2)

Down

- Asphalt (3)
- Very small portion (3)
- vs. good (3)
- vs. out (2)
- Exists (2)



Solution to July 10 puzzle



• 'HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW HIGHLANDS?' CROSSWORD PUZZLE •

Across

- Had the most famous soda shop in town.
- One of the founders of Highlands.
- Tube here.
- People used to use their quarters here.
- Great citizen of Highlands award.
- Basketball coach of Highlands School.
- Champion who played Highlands Country Club often.
- Coke family that built Rec Park.
- Guy who runs Country Club Properties.
- This woman (my grandmother) will feed you.
- Come to the little church here.
- Former Waller and Reed employer.
- Where Highlands is located.
- Sister City.
- Remodeled of Old Edwards.
- People clogged at her barn.
- Now largest grocery in Highlands.
- Oldest house in Highlands.
- Santa mayor.
- Oldest grave in Memorial Cemetery.

Down

- Get behind a sightseer on this road and you'll be sorry.
- This Cardinal used to sell ice cream in Town Square.
- Rhodes Superette.
- You may have watched fireworks here.
- Fine dining for particular people.
- Dirty up your car on this former passage into Highlands.
- Falls on 107.
- "Salty" Fire Chief.
- We didn't build this city.
- These "lookers" arrive in October.
- Use these at Harris Lake.
- Walhalla Road.
- In 1950, 64 went under this.
- Three score and seven years ago, this was the school.
- Most prevalent "country" in Highlands.
- Gotta go to Franklin or Clayton to shop here.
- Fine dining and a wine garden to boot.
- Giant tree in Horse Cove.
- You'll find this sandwich at Sports Page.
- ___ Shack (Not a B-52s song).
- This woman's name was the first to grace Galax marquee.
- Hickory St, if you prefer the proper name of this hill.



Find It All On This Map

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Just Google Highlands To

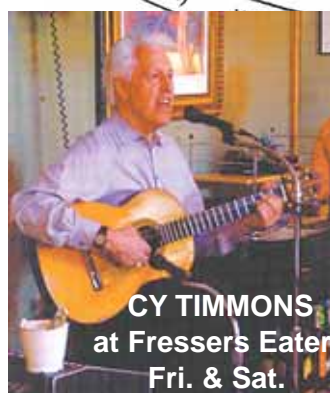
HighlandsInfo.com



Paoletti's Wine Spectator

Wolfgang's Wine Spectator

Madison's Wine Spectator



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2008 Highlands Map

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1 Brick Oven	15 Madison's	1 AnnaWear	1 Acorns
2 Buck's	16 Nick's	2 Bear Mt. Outfit.	2 Chinz
3 Cyprus	17 Oak St Cafe	3 Bungalow Boutique	3 CK Swan
4 Don Leon	18 On The Verandah	4 Carolina Eyes	4 Elephant's Foot
5 Fireside	19 Paoletti's	5 Elevations	5 Mirror Lake
6 Fressers Eatery	20 Pizza Place	6 Highland Hiker	6 Scudder's
7 Fressers Express	21 Rib Shack	7 Jackson Madeleine	7
8 Golden China	22 Rosewood	8 Needle Point	
9 High Country	23 Skyline Lodge	9 Raspberry Fizz	Galleries
10 Highlands Deli	24 Sports Page	10 Silver Eagle	1 Bryant Art Glass
11 Hill Top Grill	25 Subway	11 Stone Lantern	2 Drakes Diamonds
12 Kelsey Place	26 SweetTreats	12 Vivace	3 Mill Creek Gallery
13 Lakeside	27 Wild Thyme	13 Village Kids	4 Tin Roof Gallery
14 Log Cabin	28 Wolfgang's	14 Wit's End	5 Tino Gallery
			6 Summit One

Twigs At Highlands Edge

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Whole Health Market
Civic Center Rec. Park
Pool & Tennis

Performing Arts Center

Community Players

Historic Village
Meadows Mountain Realty

Marathon Gas
Fibber Magee's
Mt Findings

SweetTreats Ice Cream & Eatery
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Lodging

- 1 Fire Mountain
- 2 Hampton Inn
- 3 High Hampton Inn
- 4 Highlands Suites
- 5 Millstone Inn
- 6 Mirror Lake Lodge
- 7 Mtn. High Lodge
- 8 Old Edwards Spa
- 9 Skyline Lodge
- 10 The Lodge

Beauty	Home Decor	Real Estate
1 # 1 Nails	1 Acorn's	1 Buyers
2 All Seasons	2 Bird Barn	2 Caralina Mtn Br.
3 Creative Concepts	3 Dry Sink	3 Century 21
4 Images Unlimited	4 Out On A Limb	4 Chambers
5 Michael's	5 On The Rocks	5 Country Club
6 Mountain Rayz	6 Shiraz Rugs	6 Green Mountain
7 Old Edwards Spa	7 Summer House	7 John Cleaveland
8 Pro Nails	8 Twigs The Season	8 John Schiffl
9 Taylor Barnes	9 Twigs	9 Meadows Mtn.
	10 Wholesale Down	10 Prestige Realty

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