

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 6, Number 12

PDF Version – www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, March 20, 2008

On-going

• The Highlands Playhouse is taking reservations for "Always Patsy Cline," June 19-July 6; "On Golden Pond," July 10-20; "70th Anniversary Diamond Review," July 24-Aug. 10; and "Inherit the Wind," Aug. 14-31. Call 828-526-2695 or write or PO Box 896, Highlands, NC 28741.

• Highlands Playhouse is taking reservations for its annual Children's Theatre Mon.-Fri., July 7-18, 9 a.m. to noon for ages 6-10, and 1-4 p.m. for ages 11-16. Call 828-526-2695 or write or PO Box 896, Highlands, NC 28741.

• Registration is now open for the 2008 summer nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are offered. Call 828-526-2623.

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

• Step Aerobics at the Rec Park, 4-5 p.m., Mon., Wed., Thurs. \$5 per class.

• At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes.

Every Monday

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

Every Wednesday

• Adult handbell rehearsals at Highlands United Methodist Church at 6 p.m. Call Carroll Harris at 526-3376.

• Gospel of John Bible Study with Pastor Todd Struble using the Efid Bible Study Series 6:15 - 7:15 at HUMC.

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

Every Friday & Saturday

• Live music at The Rib Shack every Friday and Saturday night from 7-10 p.m.

Every Saturday

• Live music at Cyprus Restaurant at 9:30 p.m. \$10 cover.

Fri.-Sun., March 21-23

• Live piano and acoustic guitar music at Oak Street Cafe 5-8 p.m.

Friday, March 21

• Stations of the Cross at noon, beginning at the Catholic church. 30-min. walk through town. If rain, bring an umbrella.

Saturday, March 22

• Easter Egg Hunt at the Highlands Rec Park at 11 a.m. For ages 0-3 years; 4-6 years; and 7-10 years.

Sunday, March 23

• Ecumenical Sunrise service at 7 a.m. Easter morning at the Nature Center Amphitheatre.

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
57-35°F	56-33°F	50-30°F

Big Creek silt removal plan set

The town now has a precise plan for removing the silt from the Big Creek Arm of Lake Sequoyah; all it needs is the money.

At the Wednesday, March 18 Town Board meeting, Max Kimel representing Altamont Environmental, Inc., outlined the procedure for removing 42,000 yards of sediment from Big Creek. Included in the project, which will ultimately cost \$2 million, is dewatering the silt once it's removed and the transportation of it to a deposit site.

In a multi-phased study, Altamont first mapped the sediment in the Big Creek arm using a contour map from 1907, collected sediment samples and analyzed them for pesticides and metals, developed sediment removal and disposal options, met with NC

See SILT page 23

53-ft. semis may not be allowed on The Gorge

By Sally Hanson
Reporter

The prospect of 53-foot long tractor-trailers traversing U.S. 64 triggered outrage by citizens and county and town officials. Thanks to that outcry, DOT officials are reconsidering the notion.

At Tuesday night's meeting between the county commission, the Town of Franklin and the Town of Highlands, County Manager Jack Horton said "It looks like the subject will be averted for now."

MC Commissioner Ronnie Beale, echoed Horton's comment. "Conrad Burrell, who sits on the N.C. DOT board, said it's not likely the new, longer 53-foot rigs will be allowed on The Gorge Road."

Unfortunately, the possibility of meeting an 18-wheeler on the road, particularly at the steepest, curviest part, will likely still happen.

Sgt. Charles McMahan of the NC State Highway Patrol, said it is illegal for semi-trucks to use The Gorge Road to get to places that can be reached via other routes, such as Highway 107 from Jackson County to Cashiers, N.C. 106 from Dillard to Highlands and Buck Creek from the Franklin side of U.S. 64 to the Cashiers side of U.S. 64 -- and tickets can and are issued to trucks if they are caught.

However, he said 18-wheelers •See GORGE ROAD page 8

Easter in Highlands



Holy week in Highlands is an ecumenical affair. See page 20 for details. People are invited to put a live cutting on the "living" cross on the lawn of the Highlands United Methodist Church on Easter morning.

Big septic changes in effect now

With the septic permitting crisis in the Environmental Health Department over and turnaround down to 30 days, officials are ready to revamp procedures which they say will keep septic permitting on track.

At the March 10 Macon County Commission meeting, Health Department Director Jim Bruckner presented a prioritization and fee change for onsite wastewater permitting.

"This is our way of letting citizens know where we stand and gives them more options," said Bruckner.

The Fast Track program has been revamped. "The Fast Track program didn't work," said Bruckner. "People can still hire private soil scientists to lay out their system but instead of getting a break on the permit price, they will pay what everyone else pays."

Commissioner Bob Simpson said he didn't think that was fair because those who use private companies for the septic work pay two and three times more than those who use the county's services. In the end he voted against the motion which passed 4-1 with changes in effect that night.

"A fast track application and permit is no different than any other application or permit and should not be treated as such," said Bruckner. "Since the implementation of the fast-track, 676 permits have been issued via this •See SEPTIC page 20

Milestone meeting sets tone

Mayor Don Mullen's January request for more communication and collaboration between the county and its municipalities was granted Tuesday night.

At this most recent collaboration meeting between the three entities – the county, the Town of

Franklin and the Town of Highlands – board members broke bread and discussed common issues and concerns.

"It's healthy for the county and its municipalities to get together to discuss concerns, issues,

•See MILESTONE page 22

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

• LETTERS •

Something to think about 'Johnny Got His Gun' by Dalton Trumbo "If not now, when?"- Hillel

By Karen Hawk

On this fifth Anniversary of the American War in Iraq and the soon to be seventh in Afghanistan, is it ironic to suggest the contemplation of PEACE by reading a book about war?

Suggest I will and the book is, *Johnny Got His Gun* by Dalton Trumbo. I am grieved at the timelessness of Trumbo's book. It was written in 1938 in the aftermath of World War I, "the war to end all wars" and published two days after the start of World War II in 1939 and earned a National Book Award that same year.

During the Vietnam War era (1971) Mr. Trumbo adapted his book to the screen and both wrote and directed the movie version. At the Cannes Film Festival he was awarded the International Critics Award and the Special Award.

Dalton Trumbo was the most famous member of "The Hollywood Ten," and while his social conscious dominated his life and work, he was a highly successful screenwriter. Some of his screenplays include *Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo*, *The Brave One*, *Spartacus*, *Exodus*, *Hawaii* and *Papillon*.

Johnny Got His Gun is a powerful story that slowly unfolds through the recollections, dreams and thoughts of Joe Bonham. The reader accompanies Joe in his dawning realization as to the extent the war has forever changed him.

The journey is disturbing.

The book reminds me of a phrase "Comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable". This is Trumbo's method. The book is divided into two books with the first entitled *The Dead*, the second *The Living*.

The following is an excerpt of the entire chapter ten which ends book one. This chapter contains Joe's thoughts as he awakens to the fact that he is the spokesperson for all people killed in any war.

Chapter 10

"Lying on your back without anything to do and anywhere to go was kind of like being on a high hill far away from noise and people. It was like being on a camping trip all by yourself. You had plenty of time to think. You had time to figure things out. Things you'd never thought of before. Things like for example going to war. You were so completely alone on your hill that

noise and people didn't enter in your figuring of things at all. You figured only for yourself without considering a single thing outside yourself. It seemed that you thought clearer and that your answers made more sense. And even if they didn't make sense it didn't matter because you weren't ever going to be able to do any thing about them anyhow.

He thought here you are Joe Bonham lying like a side of beef all the rest of your life and for what? Somebody tapped you on the shoulder and said come along son we're going to war. So you went. But why? In any other deal even like buying a car or running an errand you had the right to say what's there in it for me? Otherwise you'd be buying bad cars for too much money or running errands for fools and starving to death. It was a kind of duty you owed yourself that when anybody said come on son do this or do that you should stand up and say look mister why should I do this for whom am I doing it and what am I going to get out of it in the end? But when a guy comes along and says here come with me and risk

• See FORUM page 23

Highlands' rules not good for business

Dear Editor,

When we bought our business, Wild Thyme Gourmet, almost nine years ago, we moved here from out of town because we felt as if Highlands was a great place to have a business and raise a family; a true "community." It didn't occur to us to check and see if our restaurant was in compliance with parking regulations, because there is so much available parking around our building. Even on holiday weekends the parking spots around our restaurant are rarely full. It was our responsibility to make ourselves aware of the regulations, we were naïve, and we take responsibility for it.

At the last Town Board meeting it was mentioned that there are actually fewer restaurants in Highlands today than there were 15 years ago. The current, antiquated, parking regulations could be one reason why this may be the case.

Once we became aware that our restaurant was out of compliance we looked for another location in town, within walking distance of Main Street, that could accommodate our business and the parking we would need to provide. We could not find a space that met these criteria. While there were buildings that could have accommodated a restaurant as small as 50 seats the properties did not have the additional space to meet the

stringent parking requirements. To us this fact sends a very clear signal. Highlands' current parking regulations are not accommodating to restaurants that are not in the B-1 zoning district.

For years now conscientious watershed management has been the topic of many public discussions. There are currently strict building codes that limit the percentage of private property that can be covered with an impervious surface so that our streams and rivers may remain clean. The current parking regulations seem to work against this as well. Eighteen months ago the Catholic Church generously offered to let us share their parking lot, based on the fact that we do not have conflicting business hours; a sort of "carpool" for parking spaces. Unfortunately when we presented this solution to the town we learned that the current regulations do not allow businesses in close proximity to each other, which also have mutually exclusive hours, to share parking. We were amazed that with a parking lot so close to us, being offered for our use, that the regulations require us to add even more pavement.

We would like to see a small pedestrian friendly village filled with a variety of thriving restaurants and retail shops. It seems, however, that the current parking regulations require that large amounts of space be devoted to pavement thus making our town less walkable, our streams less clean, and more difficult for small business to thrive in Highlands.

Nancy and Carter Bruns
Wild Thyme Gourmet Highlands

Delivery truck is a 'parked' billboard

Dear Editor,

Has anyone else noticed the big yellow delivery truck that is constantly parked in the same mid-street space on Main Street? It's so big it barely fits into the space and the company's name emblazoned on the sides makes it look like a billboard on wheels. I personally find this vehicle to be detrimental to the quaint village-like character of Main Street. No one objects to commercial trucks making deliveries but this truck has become a permanent fixture. I have watched during the summer as it surrenders its two-hour parking spot to a smaller delivery van owned by the same company. It seems to me that blatantly commercial vehicles like this one should

• See LETTERS page 3

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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• OBITUARY •

Jonathan Chamberlain Williams

Jonathan Chamberlain Williams, age 79, of High Holly Road, Scaly Mountain, NC passed away Sunday, March 16, 2008 at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. He was born in Buncombe County, NC the son of the late Thomas B. and Georgia Chamberlain Williams. He was a US Veteran of the US Army. Mr. Williams was a writer and publisher for Jargon Society Inc. He received grants from Guggenheim Foundation and National Endowment for the Arts.

He is survived by his life time companion, Thomas Meyer of Scaly Mountain, NC.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, PO Box 190, Highlands, NC 28741. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

... LETTERS continued from page 2

be prohibited from taking up permanent residence on Main Street. Driving into town today the view of the otherwise charming small town shopping district was, as usual, dominated by the sight of this big yellow truck. In my opinion it should be parked elsewhere.

Arthur Hancock
Highlands

Auditor dodges fund balance issue

Dear Editor,

A local paper opened a column with the following. "The county's finances are in good health, said Macon County Commissioners, but some residents in

the county are under the impression that the county has been holding on to a 41 per cent fund balance, 'and that, simply put, is not the truth' said Chairman Charlie Leatherman, at Monday's county commission meeting."

One assumes Mr. Leatherman hasn't read "Management's Discussion and Analysis" which is the introduction to the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2007. The management referred to is Macon County's management, which produces this analysis for the benefit of the Commissioners.

On page 9 appears "As a measure of the General Fund's liquidity, it may be

•See LETTERS page 15

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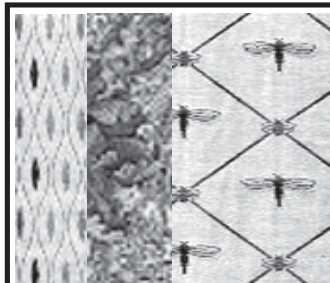
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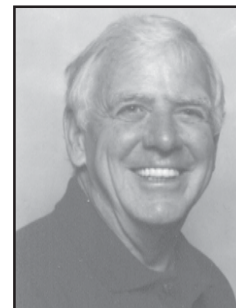
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• LOOKING AT LIFE •

The Demon

Part 2



Fred Wooldridge

•
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This incredible true story is being told in three parts. Part one can be read on line or picked up at the Highlands Newspaper on Oak St. The names, places and some circumstances are changed to protect identities. The events are real. Mike Benson, a seasoned narcotics officer, has decided to give up his 10-year career because of recurring nightmares.

give me one day. Is that asking for so much?" I shoved the gun and shield back across the desk toward him. Mike closed his eyes, shaking his head.

"I knew you wouldn't let me do this my way. You always get your damn way." He stood, picked up his weapon and shield and walked toward the door. Then he turned and smiled, "You're wrong about me getting kicked out of the house. Doris went home to her mother over a week ago." Not

waiting for my reaction, he turned and disappeared.

The fact of the matter was I was lying to Mike. I didn't have a friend who was a shrink. I just needed time to think. The lie allowed me to postpone the resignation until the following day.

I was shocked to find Dr. Goldstein's secretary still in the office this close to cocktail hour. "He is with a patient but I can ask him to call you when he is free." Minutes later my phone rang and it was Dr. Goldstein. "I have a situation and need advice. I have a friend outside the department who is having threatening nightmares and thinks there's a demon in him. He lives up in Palm Beach County and I want to know if you know of a good shrink I can send him to up there."

"Hold on, let me get a phone number for you." Sitting on hold gave me time to reflect on what had just occurred. How could I have not seen how stressed Mike had become? Could I ever get so bad that I would give up my job because I was haunted by an over-imaginative brain working overtime against me? This job can make you crazy.

"You still there? His name is Gross, Doctor Gross....on PGA Boulevard. Can't find his number but he's in the book."

"Thanks, Doc, I'll call him now."

"Don't bother, he plays golf every Wednesday. Besides it's after five. Call him tomorrow."

Fortunately for me, it was a busy night and I could put the incident temporarily behind me. It was also Mike's regular day off and I took comfort in knowing he was not working that evening.

Part three of "The Demon" will be published next Thursday.

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

I sat in silence and tried to gather my thoughts. I was not ready for what Mike had told me. Finally, I spoke. "We have both taken enough psychology classes to know that recurring nightmares such as these are a cause for alarm. We also know they are just dreams. Have you considered you are throwing away your career because of dreams?" He grabbed a nearby chair and pulled it close to my desk. I was surprised to see him sit. He leaned forward, placing both elbows on my desk.

"I have, but this is more than a dream. I have a demon inside me and I feel he is warning me if I don't quit, I will be shot."

I became annoyed. "You are confused. There's no demon in you, besides, so called demons don't warn people they're about to be killed. Get a grip. I'll take you off the street for a while. We are weeks behind on profiling and you can help us get caught up. The demon you are imagining will go away. How about visiting Goldstein?" Mike looked at me in shock. Oh, how I wish I hadn't said that.

"You're recommending I see the departmental shrink? He's an idiot. It's all supposed to be confidential but by the next day the entire department knows about your visit because of those bitches in his office. Everyone who is forced to see him winds up looking like a clown. You think I can solve this problem with Goldstein? Give me a break!"

I lowered my head in shame. What was I thinking? Mike was right because Goldstein's office staff were all gossipers. Dr. Goldstein was competent but was not respected by most members of the department.

"You're right! Give me 24 hours and let me find someone you can speak with, someone outside the department. I know a person I can reach out to for help. Just

• ANOTHER VIEW •

The art of giving

I recently received an e-mail request from a buddy in Connecticut. My friend, an amateur tri athlete and professional attorney, had committed to ride a stationary bike for six hours in order to raise money for breast cancer research. His e-mail linked me to a site where I effortlessly, if not painlessly, donated a hundred bucks. Within an hour, my buddy e-mailed his gratitude for my generosity. It's easier to contribute than be thought a tightwad. Anyway the money wasn't for him, and the fight against breast cancer is a worthy battle. The exact link between his six hours in the saddle and my contribution eludes me, but what the heck. A request for linament or aspirin might have been more sensible, but less noble. This guy usually takes days to respond to an e-mail, so the prompt reply was really impressive. A few days later I received a follow up note announcing that my friend's team had accounted for \$100,000 of a total of \$455,000 raised by the event. Wow! If you ever want to raise money, Wilton, CT may be the place.

Several years ago, one of my partners announced that he was part of a group planning a ride from Seneca, South Carolina to Charleston in an attempt to raise money for an organization which provided counseling and support, but presumably not discounted abortion services, for young, single, pregnant women. Todd was neither fit nor a cyclist, so I decided that he needed extra incentive. Instead of pledging a dollar for each mile of the 250 miles, as he had requested, I pledged five dollars for each of the last fifty miles of the ride, assuming that Todd would be in the sag wagon by then. Todd claimed that he finished the ride, and although I doubted it then and still don't believe it now, I couldn't find anybody to refute his account and wrote the check. It's not that I think counseling unwed moms is more important than breast cancer. It's just that I have to see Todd every day.

I hate the fund raisers at school. I don't think that friends and family should subsidize my decision to send my kid to a private school; they've already paid for a public school education with taxes. I've never been able to ask friends and family to buy gift wrap. We just buy it and store it. We could paper the living room if the stuff had glue on the back. We give some to Lizzie's Mom and Bull's Godmother, but we still have enough to



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.
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last until 2015, even if we didn't buy every year. I love Girl Scout cookies, but I'd rather buy them from an anonymous Scout, or an anonymous Scout's Mom, selling from a folding table in front of Ingle's, than from somebody at the office. We ate a lot of pop corn when Bull was a Cub Scout. My sister didn't ask that I buy the \$50 deluxe (chocolate lovers) tin from her son, until my son was no longer in scouting. She called the other day reminding me that I

hadn't picked up last year's tin, which probably means that it's almost time to reorder. You can buy a lot of Orville Redenbacher's for fifty dollars. What really bothers me is that the kids get prizes for selling, which is money that doesn't go to the Scouts.

Too many charities raise far too little for the intended recipients while enriching professional fund raisers. There are actually companies who run campaigns in exchange for a large percentage of the take. I used to give a few bucks every year to the Houston Fraternal Order of Police. In return they sent a bumper sticker which I hoped would make a cop think twice before writing a speeding ticket. Some nosey reporter discovered and reported that 97% of the money collected went to the fund raiser. That left 3% to buy circus tickets for poor kids, which isn't many seats, even at a discount.

NPR is the worst. They don't offer me something that I neither want nor need if I contribute, they withhold something I really want in an attempt to blackmail me for a donation. Twice a year they interrupt programming while begging for money to continue operations. They add insult to injury by offering a coffee mug for a pledge at the \$30 level. I'd send a little something if they merely threatened to suspend Morning Edition, instead of actually doing it. Because they actually interrupt programming during their annoying fund drive, I listen to classic rock for a week, and return when normal programming resumes.

Several years ago, a friend took me to a service at a Pentecostal church. After the ushers finished the collection, the pastor dumped the proceeds on a table and counted it. "That ain't enough," he said. "We got rent to pay. We got electric bills. It ain't cheap to run this church. Try again." He sent the ushers back a second, then a third time, before he was satisfied.

• See ANOTHER VIEW page 18

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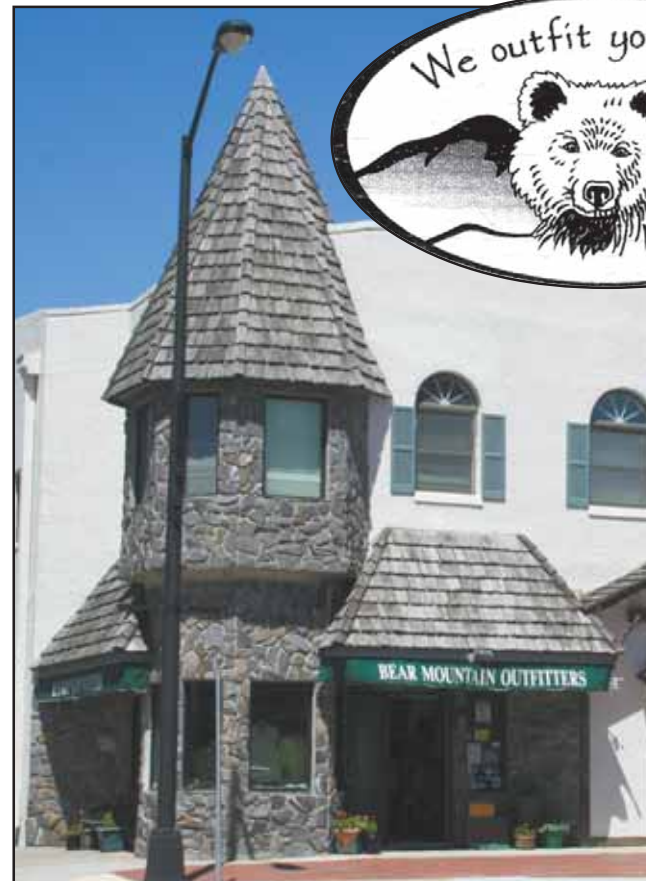
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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

Forbidden Hollywood — Is That a Joke?

A collection of films from the "pre-code" era of Hollywood have been released this month under the title "Forbidden Hollywood." In the 1920s the free-wheeling scandal-plagued film industry began to censor itself in order to stave off the imposition of government controls. The Motion Picture Association adopted the Production Code in 1930, which spelled out what was morally acceptable for a movie.

It's amusing to read the provisions of the Code today — it seems so naïve and innocent when you consider the content of modern films. For example, here is the first general principle: "No picture shall be produced that will lower the moral standards of those who see it. Hence the sympathy of the audience should never be thrown to the side of crime, wrongdoing, evil, or sin." I'm thinking of "Pulp Fiction" — the entire point of that wildly popular and much-imitated film seemed to be to glamorize crime.

The Production Code's first act of censorship was the 1934 film "Tarzan and His Mate," in which brief nude scenes involving a body double for actress Maureen O'Sullivan (who plays Jane) were edited out. I have seen that film with those scenes back in and they are exquisitely beautiful. Jane dives into a pool in the jungle and her dress pulls off as she hits the water. She and Tarzan then swim together in what can only be described as an underwater ballet. There is nothing "dirty" about this scene.

This week I watched one of the Forbidden Hollywood films, "Babyface," starring Barbara Stanwyck. Lilly (Baby Face) sleeps her way up, literally floor by floor, to the top of a New York bank. The film is about using the power of sex to get ahead and about the conflict between the desire for security and for love. (There's a very young John Wayne as the first man she hooked in New York.) And it seems quite sophisticated in its treatment of these (still very relevant) themes compared to a lot of films made today.

Production Code enforcement weakened as the decades passed and by the early 1960s big studios were releasing films that violated the code, so the MPAA came up with a rating system: G, M (now PG and PG-13), R, and X (now NC-17).

Have you ever wondered how these ratings are decided, and by whom? The



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documentary "This Film is Not Yet Rated" asks those questions and finds some disturbing answers. The film's conclusion is that the ratings system has two chronic biases: it favors films from the big studios over independent movies; and it favors violence over sex. For example, the filmmaker found that four times as many films are rated NC-17 for sex as for

violence. Look at the film that won this year's Best Film Oscar, "No Country for Old Men." It is an orgy of violence with nary a hint of sexuality.

Most other countries are completely opposite us (as usual). Their film ratings are done by government agencies, not the movie industry, and they find violence much more offensive than sex. In Britain, Germany, Ireland, Finland, Hong Kong, the Philippines and most of Canada, no one under 18 could watch "Saw," the grisly horror film that was rated R in the U.S. (In the age of the Cineplex an R rating means nothing — I have watched young teenagers leave a PG-13 film to go to an adjacent room showing an R film and no one paid any attention). And in this Cineplex age an NC-17 rating is the kiss of death because there are almost no alternative venues.

In the last week I also watched "Lenny Bruce," the film about the comedian's life. Bruce has the reputation of being "obscene," but one of his major points was this: in our culture sex is dirty but violence is fine. He is quoted in the movie as saying "killing is what I find obscene."

American culture is extremely violent. We love watching movies and television shows about murder. I found this statistic striking (April 2008 Harper's Index): Minimum number of homicides committed in the last full season of the three *Law & Order* TV shows: 83. Number of actual homicides last year in Manhattan: 69.

I watched "Fatal Attraction" last night for the first time because I was working on this column. There is a perfect example of our twisted concepts of sex and violence. A man, married for nine years, has a one-night fling in the first 20 minutes or so of the film, and then the next hour and more is a tension-filled buildup to extreme violence. Instead of exploring the common human experience of feeling sexual desire for another while being

• See BRUGGER page 19



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Holy Week 2008

Thursday, March 20, 2008

7:00 p.m.

"Maundy Thursday Service"

A worship service of Remembrance of the
final hours of Christ's life.
The service will conclude in
Holy Communion.

Friday, March 21, 2008

12:00 noon

"Stations of the Cross"

sponsored by the
churches of Highlands.

Meet at Our Lady of the Mountain.

Sunday, March 23, 2008

7:00 a.m.

"Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service"

sponsored by the churches of Highlands.

Service held at the Highlands' Biological

Center Amphitheater. Sermon by

Rev. Hunter Coleman

9:30 a.m. Sunday Church School at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

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• HIS & HERS •

Chorus Girl

It's one of those things you are never supposed to confess. In these days of political correctness, you are viewed with disdain if you come out and say that you don't really play well with others. But here it is, folks. I don't.

Perhaps it goes back to childhood, the way most things do. In elementary school, I was one of the last kids to be chosen for kickball, or softball, or Red Rover. I was among the last ones picked during recreation, along with Ruth W., whose bad breath could strip the chrome off a '57 Chevy. It still hurts.

I was not a popular girl, in a small Southern town where being popular meant everything. To this day, I can't quite put my finger on why other kids didn't want me on their sides. Perhaps it was because I was smart, and didn't hide it. While other girls giggled behind their hands, and simpered whenever a boy walked in the room, I stood my ground. My mother did not waste vast amounts of money dolling me up, and parading me around like a poodle. I was not told constantly that I was a little princess, and that everything I did was wonderful. My brother and I got a modest allowance for doing actual work, not just showing up at the dinner table and looking cute. Maybe I was a little too real.

My two great joys were books and music. I had five years of piano, and would often play the same tune over and over, full of teenage angst. On entering high school, I made a discovery which would change my life forever – I started singing in a choir. Helen M. was the same age as my brother, and had a huge crush on him. Obviously, she thought that befriending baby sister would get her into our home, where she could just happen to bump into him. This never happened. What did happen was that this rather lonely girl finally found a team. Helen dragged me along to choir practice at St. John's Episcopal Church, and I fell in love with choral music.

I'd had a bad knee for as long as I could remember. High School Physical Education was a nightmare. In baseball, I could hit, but couldn't run. In basketball, I could shoot, but couldn't dribble. In volleyball, I could serve, but couldn't volley. In choir, however, it



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didn't all boil down to that stupid knee. Sure, the playing field wasn't level – it never is – but at least in this field, I had a fighting chance.

My first church choir was made up mostly of neighbors – the Vigours and Robbie Cockrell – who provided not only their voices, but guitars, banjos, and bongo drums. This

was the 1960s, and the core of our service music was the Rev. Ian Douglas Mitchell's "An American Folk Song Mass." The choir director was a rather zany, fun guy with an eclectic taste in music. Along with many old American folk melodies, he had us doing old English carols and traditional classical fare. We had a lot of fun, in the midst of working hard. For someone who was not a team player, this was the first real taste I had of working with a bunch of similarly-minded people toward a goal. I also had a great lesson of humility taught to me by a fellow chorister.

To my great amazement, I was chosen to sing a solo at Christmas Eve mass. Let me rush in here, and tell you that I am NOT solo material – I am content to sit with my section, and try to blend in with everyone else. A dear friend, who is a choir director, once described what comes out of my mouth as "a pleasant little voice," and I think she was being very kind. The idea of doing a solo filled me with total panic. Upon reflection, it must come as a shock to my fellow singer, Becky B., who could have expected to get the role instead of me. In a show of great class, Becky took me aside, and helped me rehearse. When I confessed to being terrified of not reaching a high note, Becky devised a plan. "Just a second before you are supposed to sing that note, I'll sing it into your ear, so you get it," she promised. And she kept her promise, too. I got my high note, and delivered a performance which, if not brilliant, was more than adequate. I was especially proud that my parents were in the congregation, making the performance even sweeter.

Jump forward many years to my choir days in Paris, singing in the choir of the American Cathedral for eight years. What wonderful music we made! I even got to sing at Notre Dame (the cathedral, you know, the one that doesn't have a football team) for a

•See HIS & HERS page 19

... GORGE ROAD continued from pg 1

-- for now 48-feet long and under -- can use the Gorge Road if they can verify that their destination is Highlands.

"It's just a case where businesses have to be served," he said.

Signs are posted in Franklin and in Highlands warning trucks of the narrow curves and mountain terrain and diverting them to other routes, but as many residents know, drivers don't always heed these warnings.

The problem is The Gorge Road is the shortest distance from Franklin to Highlands on a dispatch map. "Dispatchers route their truckers that way," said Commissioner Charlie Leatherman.

When U.S. DOT announced its new map showing 1,896 miles of roads open to trucks, including curvy mountain roads like U.S. 64, and the fact that the department was considering increasing allowable length from 48 feet to 53 feet, local officials became concerned.

Commissioner Brian McClellan suggested the county voice its concerns. "It's just not appropriate to send 48- to 53-foot trailers up or down the mountain," he said.

However, Charlie Diehl, president of the N.C. Trucking Association, said to keep commerce moving in North Carolina, 53-foot trailers – which have become the industry standard – must be allowed to take the same routes as the older 48-foot units.

Though they didn't think it would do much good, at the March 10 Macon County Commission meeting, the board agreed to send a resolution to the state attorney general, N.C. DOT and other county governments declaring its outrage.

At its March 12 meeting, the Highlands Town Board followed the county's lead and drew up a resolution both against the increased length allowance and the fact that tractor-trailers are allowed on The Gorge Road at all.

Commissioner Hank Ross said the only way 18-wheelers can navigate the curves on many parts of The Gorge Road is to drive left-of-center.

"Driving left-of-center is illegal, so I don't see how the state can allow them to drive the road if they have to drive illegally to do so," he said.

Sgt. McMahan said in 2007 there were four reported accidents involving tractor-trailers in The Gorge. "I don't know how much of a problem there is with these trucks traveling the road," he said. "We do not have large numbers of accidents involving these trucks."

Far more than accidents are near misses. Most people who travel the road on a regular basis have had near-misses while passing these trucks. Sometimes there are only inches between a car and the tractor-

•See GORGE ROAD page 11

• HIGHLANDS-CASHIER HOSPITAL NEWS •

Summary of combined February meeting of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Board of Directors

In order to keep the news media and the public better informed about Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, we are providing you with a summary of the more significant actions and discussion items coming before the hospital's board of directors at its most recent meeting on Thursday, Feb. 28, 2008.

- Cindy Barloga, RN, head of the hospital's Infection Control and Employee Health Department, made an educational presentation to board members on infection control measures at the hospital. In addition to presenting routine revisions to the hospital's infection control policy, she talked about the recent influenza outbreak that has been sweeping the country and Western North Carolina, and an overview of staph infections. Barloga said the hospital's emergency room has seen 14 confirmed flu cases since the first patient of the season on Feb. 3. However, many other patients have come to the ER with flu-like symptoms.

Barloga also monitors the number of cases of Methicillin-Resistant Staph Aureus (MRSA), or staph infections, treated at the hospital. MRSA cases have been in the regional news lately. Of the patients who came to the hospital with staph infection-like symptoms, 16 percent tested positive for MRSA, compared with 63 percent nationally, she told board members. And the hospital has not had any cases of hospital-acquired staph infections in the last several years, she said.

- In his report, Board Chairman Bud Smith took a few moments to recount the progress the board and the hospital overall have made over the past two, often challenging, years. Relations between the hospital's Medical Staff and the board (and administration) are better than they have been in many years, he said. The hospital has been successful in recruiting two general surgeons and not only in reestablishing that program, but in actually expanding emergency surgical coverage to 24/7.

The board has gained in its knowledge of the corporate compliance regulations that all hospitals must abide by, and has taken an aggressive approach to enforcement, he said. There is more public transparency for hospital decision making, and a more effective, better informed board overall.

The hospital has brought in two nationally known consultants to review its practices and implemented their recommendations. Finally, Smith said the hospital has also made significant progress in divesting itself of unused assets (such as the Chestnut Hill property, the medical building in Dillard, GA, and the former Toxaway Medical Center), and has reinvested the proceeds in other assets, such as new equipment, or

through the Foundation.

- Chairman Griffin Bell, Jr., chairman of the Audit and Compliance committee, reported that the committee had met for the first time in January with Melanie McMaster of Dixon Hughes, PLLC, to review the annual audit for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2007.

The hospital received a clean, unqualified audit, and no management issues were found, he said. The board accepted the audit as submitted. Copies of the audit are available to the public for review during regular business hours in the administration offices, which are located in Suite 103 of the Jane Woodruff Clinic on the hospital campus. A summation of the information contained in the audit and accompanying report will be published in the hospital Annual Report to the community in all area newspapers later this month.

- Charlie Sheehan, chairman of the board's Finance Committee, reported that the hospital experienced a larger than anticipated loss in January, which resulted in a year-to-date loss that was greater than budget projections through the fourth month of the hospital fiscal year.

A major factor in the January numbers was a significant rise in expenses, due largely to many one-time startup costs for the general surgery program. Income from the program, in part because of the startup period and part because of the time of year, was not enough to offset expenses at this early stage. Sheehan said the committee had carefully scrutinized the January numbers and will continue to monitor the situation.

- During the Governance Committee Report, Chairman Don Mullen reminded board members that it will soon be time to nominate several new board members. That process will begin this spring and summer. He also said the committee is in the process of trying to schedule the board's annual retreat, hopefully in June. That day-long retreat is held in the area.

- Program and Facilities Committee Chair Julian Franklin reported that the committee had reviewed and discussed a staff report on the proposed new Cashiers Medical Office Building that recapped the history, need, and financial viability of the project as developed so far. Several years ago, the hospital purchased the old Oakmont Lodge Property on NC 107 north, with the idea of using a portion of the tract to build a new medical office building. The hospital has had architects working on plans for the facility. A major question is whether or not the hospital's Foundation could raise enough money through contributions to

• See HOSPITAL page 15

Holy Week Services

at

Highlands United Methodist Church



Holy Thursday - March 20

Please join us at 7 p.m. for our Holy Thursday service. In remembrance of our Lord's Last Supper, we will share together in Holy Communion. Pastor Todd's meditation, *"Eating With the Enemy"* will focus on what our Lord endured during that last meal He shared with his disciples, his friends.

Good Friday - March 21

Stations of the Cross at Noon

Beginning at the Catholic church, we will walk through Highlands, stopping at various places to read an account of the walk Jesus made carrying his cross to Calvary. We carry a cross with us and sing familiar hymns as we go. It takes about 30 minutes and we finish at the Baptist church. If it is raining, bring an umbrella.

Good Friday Service at 7 p.m.

We will celebrate the Service of Tenebrae (which means, literally, *darkness*) on Good Friday, March 21. This service of readings, revealing the passion of Christ, leads to total darkness and the powerful reminder of what Christ did for us on the cross.

Easter Sunday - March 23

Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service — 6:30 a.m.

We will gather with other churches at the amphitheatre behind the Biological Research Center at 6:30 a.m. on Easter Morning for our Sunrise Service.

Worship Services — 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Join us as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord! Services will be full of music and good news! A nursery will be provided. There will not be children's worship.

Covered Dish Breakfast — 9:45 a.m.

Bring an egg casserole, fruit, or danish to share as we have breakfast together.

Children's Egg Hunt and Devotion -10 a.m.

The children will be off to hunt eggs at 10 a.m. with treasures inside, then the youth will present a brief message to the children. Preschool children will hunt eggs on the playground (nursery/preschool rooms if it rains). Elementary children will hunt eggs on the front lawn (Ms. Wilma's room if it rains).

Sheriff's Dept. seeks citizens' help

The Macon County Sheriffs Office and Crime Stoppers request citizens' assistance in solving the following crimes.

- On Feb. 22, Smith Powers Sports had total of (three) 4-wheelers stolen from their property. Stolen was (1) King Quad Suzuki 750 Green in color, (1) Kawasaki 700 Lime Green in color, (1) Huber KX65 2001 model motorcycle.

- On Feb. 22, Blue Ridge Auto Sales located on 441 South had (one) 5x10 trailer stolen from their property. Trailer is red in color with a drop down tailgate.

- On Feb. 22, near the intersection of Sylva Road and Hunnicutt Road a 1969 Chevy Chevelle was stolen. Investigators believe it occurred between the hours of Midnight and 3 am.

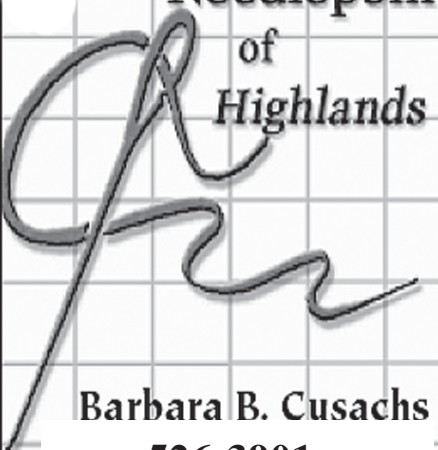
Wanted for questioning is an individual driving a white Chevy Astro Mini Van possibly a 1997 model. Detectives han-

dling these cases are limiting the information they are releasing but will confirm that they may be connected and that they have at least three individuals plus someone driving the van who can be seen on surveillance video at one of the locations where the incidents occurred.

If you where in the area around the time that any of these incidences occurred or if you have information regarding these crimes, please contact crime stoppers at 828-349-2600 or the Macon County Sheriff's Office. Remember all callers can remain anonymous.

In addition to a cash reward being offered by Crime Stoppers, \$1,000 is being offered by the owner of the "69" Chevy Chevelle for information leading to the vehicles recovery or information leading to the arrests of those individuals involved in the theft.

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• COACH'S CORNER •

And so it begins....

I'll start this column by providing evidence of my NCAA Tournament credentials. As of today I have correctly picked 100% of the opening round of the NCAA tournament. It took a lot of courage to pick Mount St. Mary's, but I am definitely a courageous person. With this evidence of my mastery of the NCAA tournament, I have no choice but to proclaim myself a "tournament expert" and provide you, the lucky reader (and I mean reader in a singular sense, as in the one person that reads this column) with some thoughts on the tournament.



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Goode's team isn't going to upset North Carolina, but I recommend you tune in to watch the PG battle between Goode and Ty Lawson, who are two of the fastest PG's in the nation.

Teams to watch

This is a little more difficult than it used to be, mainly because the NCAA Tournament Committee is rewarding strong mid-major teams with higher

seeds than they have in the past, so the upsets are not nearly as striking as they were in recent years of March Madness.

Davidson Wildcat

Davidson lost by single digits to UNC, Duke, and NC State, and held an 18 point lead against UCLA before going cold out on the west coast. The Wildcats are led by stud shooting guard Stephen Curry and PG Jason Richards. They have the senior leadership, experience and talent necessary to make a deep run in the tournament — provided they beat Gonzaga in the first round.

Drake Bulldogs

As one of the highest seeded mid-majors in recent history, it would be tempting to call the Drake overrated, but they certainly have the resume to back up their high seeding — led by a balanced attack that features great guard play from Adam Emmenecker and Josh Young, inside scoring from Jonathan Cox, and plenty of outside shooters all over the court. Drake shoots 37% from three point range and has the firepower to take down anyone in the nation, provided they are hitting shots.

Pittsburgh Panthers

This could be the year that Pitt makes the run they have been capable of. Finally healthy after a plethora of injuries, the Panthers have great talent at guard with LeVance Fields and Ronald Ramon to go with inside forces Sam Young and DeJuan Blair. Pittsburgh defends with intensity and has been on a roll since they have overcome their injuries.

Oklahoma Sooners

Another team ravaged by injuries, the Sooners finished the season strong, winning 6 out of their last 8 games. Oklahoma is in this list because of their draw in the tournament. St. Joseph's will be vulnerable to the Sooners punishing style of defense, and Louisville is vulnerable as well to a team like Oklahoma that can grind them to a halt. Keep an eye on super-frosh Blake Griffin for the Sooners, who has exceptional talent.

Players to watch

Obviously, the guys like Tyler Hansbrough and Michael Beasley are going to be on this list, but here are some names that you may not have heard of that can carry their respective teams to a victory or two in March.

Mike Green – Butler

Green is the engine that makes the Bulldogs go. An excellent finisher around the basket, as well as a terrific three point shooter, Green gives the Bulldogs the one-on-one player that every team needs to succeed in March.

Josh Young – Drake

While Adam Emmenecker gets the pub for the Drake, Young is the guy that takes, and makes, all of the big shots for the Bulldogs.

Sundiata Gaines – Georgia

Georgia completed a miracle run in the SEC tournament to get a bid thanks to the play of Gaines. Gaines is extremely strong around the basket and is a streaky shooter who can go for 30 every time he steps on the floor.

Dionte Christmas – Temple

Christmas shows up every night for the Owls, averaging over 20 points a game and giving them a legitimate go-to guy to complement the solid play of Mark Tyndale.

Edwin Ubiles – Siena

Ubiles is a powder keg ready to go off every time he steps on the floor, having scored over 20 points 12 times this year. Ubiles shoots over 44% from the three point line and at 6'6 is a difficult match-up for most teams.

Michael Jenkins – Winthrop

Jenkins has a silky smooth jumper and can really get hot from behind the three point arc (as evidenced by his 6 threes in the Big South Championship)

Jeremy Goode – Mount St. Mary's

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Summit Charter School hires new director

Beginning July 1, Dr. John "Jack" Talmadge will become the new director of Summit Charter School. The school has been undergoing an intensive search process since the death of former director, Christopher Horne, in November. There were four very strong finalists that were interested in the school and community. Dr. Talmadge rose above the others with his experience, insight, and strong communication skills. The school couldn't be more pleased with the decision.

Dr. Talmadge is an Atlanta native. His undergraduate degree is from Hampden-Sydney College in biology, and he holds a Master's degree in Educational Leadership and Administration, and a Doctorate degree in Administration and Policy Studies from The George Washington University. He is employed at Blessed Sacrament Huguenot School near Richmond, Virginia, which is Pre-K through 12th grade. He began his career in education there 15 years ago as a math and science teacher, and has risen to his current position as Principal. He is the director of faculty and curriculum for all grades, as well as manager of all school operations. Dr. Talmadge's educational philosophy is very much in line with Summit's mission and vision. He is a supporter of place-based education and realizes the importance of putting children on the path to become life-long learners. During his visit to Summit last month his immediate connection with the students and the faculty was very apparent.

"Summit's future is very bright. Dr. Talmadge will bring great energy and excitement to the school. We couldn't have asked for a better fit for our current needs. He sees our potential and will take us to great heights," said board chair, Nancy Bruns.

Dr. Talmadge remarked, "For over twenty years I have been enchanted by the beautiful streams and hiking trails of Cashiers, Highlands and Brevard. I cannot

even begin to express the level of excitement and gratitude the Talmadge family possesses in its invitation to join such a charming community. We now have new mountains to climb and new paths to explore, paths that will take Summit Charter School on exciting adventures of educational opportunity and growth."

Summit Charter School is currently constructing a new campus on 25 acres off of Zeb Alley Road in Cashiers. Dr. Talmadge is excited about the future of the school at the new site. Summit has recently begun an environmental education program that will be further developed at the new property where outdoor learning centers in multiple ecosystems will be available for hands-on instruction.

Dr. Talmadge is 38 years old, he has a wife, Beth, and 3 young girls, Lily (2), Maddie (5), and Rylie (7). The school looks forward to welcoming the whole family to Cashiers this summer.

Summit Charter School is a K-8 public school, located in Cashiers, open to all North Carolina children. For more information please call 743-5755.



Dr. John "Jack" Talmadge and family

• HIGHLANDS EATERIES •

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Cashiers Road next to the
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... GORGE ROAD

continued from page 8

trailer which is usually way out of its lane.

Besides potential accidents and near misses, is the wear and tear 18-wheelers inflict on the road, as well as the potential for two semi-trucks meeting each other at one of several curves.

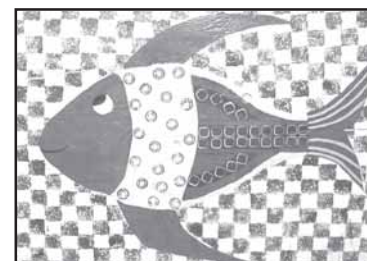
Officials say the problem with enforcing the rules is a manpower issue. The Gorge Road is out of the jurisdiction of both the Highlands and Franklin police departments, and it doesn't fall under the Macon County Sheriff's jurisdiction. Instead it's up to NC Highway Patrol and Sgt. Johnson said while any state trooper can enforce the laws associated with the road, "We are stretched pretty thin."

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• FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

The town listens to its citizen

Very important visitors came to see us at Town Hall this past week. People from the United States Army Corps of Engineers came by to see us in support of obtaining funds for removal of silt from Lake Sequoyah. The Corps, due to the Water Resources Development Act passed by Congress this past November, now has the authority to be more involved in important environmental projects such as dredging critical lakes.

The Big Creek arm of Lake Sequoyah is certainly a critical area for the town of Highlands because it is the source of our water supply. The effect of the sedimentation in the lake has resulted in the diminished quality of the town water and it is critical that we either get funded from other governmental agencies or significantly raise our own tax base in order to take care of this situation.

After our consultation with these three individuals from the Corps of Engineers, they made a site visit to the lake and the next day visited Congressman Shuler's office in Asheville in support of our request for funding. Recent thorough appraisal of the project by Mountain Engineering put the price of this project at \$2 million.

I have talked with Congressman Shuler previously about this project and had several conversations with his office this past week. The request for this funding officially was faxed to his office Friday and they have stated to me that they will do everything they can to obtain these funds for us. In the past we have had little luck with the federal government even though both the previous mayor, Buck Trott, and I have made trips to Washington to seek congressional approval for funding. Unfortunately, in the past most of these funds have dried up before we could get anything. Let us hope this time we are successful.

We emphasized to both the Corps and the Congressman that we will be taking care of most of the source of this silt later this year with the paving of the three roads surrounding Big Creek. These two projects are critical to Highlands and I am now optimistic that something good is going to happen.

The recent decision by the NCDOT to allow trucks as long as 53 feet to come up and down the gorge road was most unfortunate if not very dangerous. Everyone who uses that road to and



Mayor Don Mullen

from Franklin knows why and most have been inconvenienced by large trucks either getting stuck, slow or literally going over the edge. Both the County Commissioners and the Town of Highlands Commissioners have written a letter of protest to the State and have been supported by our State Senator John Snow. Apparently DOT is

not allowed by state law to bar these trucks from this highway. If that be the case, the state law must be changed before lives are lost on this very beautiful passageway which is quite dangerous with large trucks on it.

This week our board of commissioners had a joint meeting with the county commissioners. We are looking forward to open dialogue with them regarding our common concerns and hopefully we can make this a quarterly occurrence. I have talked with the new county manager Jack Horton on several occasions and he has been to Highlands to visit us. We look forward to future good relationships with our county counterparts. The chairman of the county commissioners, Charlie Leatherwood, has also been open to this communication.

The decision by the town to allow certain commercial activities sponsored by not-for-profit organizations in recreation facilities such as the Civic Center and the new Pine Street park was a good one. There are some things the town can do to boost our economy in a year which threatens to be a recession time. However, with that said, we must still primarily use these facilities for the non-commercial recreation activities to which they are intended. Uses will be limited to Macon county residents and must be applied for at least 30 days in advance of the project.

Next week the commissioners will be having an important joint meeting with the Planning Board to hopefully come to an agreement on outdoor displays and restaurant parking. Those two issues have been hot topics at our board meetings and we must come to a decision before our busy season begins in May. We have had many comments from the public and I can assure everyone that these comments will be taken into serious consideration. The wheels of government roll slowly, even on local issues, but these two issues have taken too long to work out because of the many ramifications which affect many businesses.

Girls soccer team beat Swain and Murphy



Ana Damian scores a penalty kick against Swain at the March 3 game. Highlands won 4-1. The next home games are March 24 against Murphy; March 27 against Hiwasee Dam and March 28 against Rabun Gap

Photos by Stephanie McCall



Photos by Noel Atherton

Highlands beat Murphy – a conference opponent — 4-0 at the March 17 game. “Goal Shock” registers on freshman Stephanie Puchacz’s face after her very first soccer goal. A Murphy opponent can’t hide the look of disgust on her face.

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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

Fairness Doctrine? I Don't Think So

Talk Radio, definition: "Broadcast radio programming consisting of talk shows, often including telephone conversations with members of the audience."

For many years, the major television networks, ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, etc., controlled the news that almost all of us received. That news formed the thinking of those who were not founded in a strong conservative philosophy. The filter through which we learn what's going on was and is unarguably biased to the left; therefore, logically, most people's thinking, especially politically speaking, was and is influenced in a liberal direction.

During the same period the print media, newspapers and news magazines, had the same influence with the same outcome. Because of the availability of TV news coverage and the willingness and ability to read dwindling, and because more time was spent commuting, allowing less time for reading, evening newspapers soon disappeared, as well as many news magazines. I learned to read at the age of four, sitting on my daddy's knee, reading TIME magazine. I'm not sure TIME is still published and I don't care enough to Google it to find out. It had turned into a far left rag the last I saw.

While it may take a while to happen, all vacuums will eventually be filled, and the lack of conservative news outlets was finally fixed. When so much time commuting became a fact of life, it crimped TV watching time, and it expanded radio listening time. When I was young, pre-TV, we got our news from the newsreels at the movies, and the 10 p.m. 15-minute news-cast on radio. At least in my life, radio more or less became irrelevant. Now we have 24/7 news. How times have changed.

In 1996, FOX News Network was born, providing an alternative to CNN's liberal slanted news coverage. At the time CNN was a distant second to BBC in worldwide exposure but dominated cable news (thus Cable News Network). It has been asserted that FOX has right-leaning tendencies, obviously by those who are on the opposite side of the political spectrum. I see an ironic twist here. Since FOX cleans CNN's clock in viewership, that must mean many more people choose to have their news delivered from a fair and balanced (conservative) perspective.

At the same time FOX emerged on the scene, widespread use of the internet was

underway. Slowly but surely, this me-



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

dia, through blogging, began to be a news source (Drudge Report, World Net Daily, seemingly all traditional news outlets,

etc.) and now is replacing newspapers as a source of news and opinion. Frankly, even though USA Today comes from the wrong side, I enjoy paging through it where I see stories on subjects I wouldn't look for on the net. Blogging enables otherwise anonymous

individuals to express their thoughts and beliefs, for what they are worth.

In 1949, the Fairness Doctrine became policy at a time we were fighting Communism. Its purpose was to level the media playing field and to give equal time to contrasting points of view. In time, it became a political tool and the Kennedy Administration used it vigorously to squelch conservative radio content by demanding like time to the liberal point of view. Radio stations were required to provide the "equal time" at no cost, which, of course, was an economic hardship on the station and network owners. The answer was to not present political commentary of any persuasion.

After a series of judicial and legislative maneuvers, in 1987 President Reagan vetoed a bill that would have codified the "Fairness Doctrine," and an attempt to revive it in 1991 was killed By Pres. Bush I. Not surprisingly, the conservative voice started to be heard following the Gingrich-led Republican dominated election of 1994. Talk radio began to grow and prosper on a national scale, led by Rush Limbaugh and others. The revival of radio, as a valued source of information, flourished and provided a conservative offset to the slanted offerings of newspapers and TV.

As the popularity of conservative talk radio boomed, the liberals cried foul. Their attempt to compete (Air American Radio) was lunched in 2004, lost \$41 million by 2006 and filed for bankruptcy. Their lousy on-air talent compounded the fact that liberal broadcasts are by nature depressing so nobody listened. Failing to compete, the libs are back on the "Fairness Doctrine" drumbeat headed by Sens.

Richard Durbin, John Kerry, Barack Obama and Media Matters, Hillary's mouthpiece.

If they are allowed to succeed in passing a new and improved "Fairness

Doctrine," you can kiss talk radio goodbye and free speech as well. It is a disaster in the making.

... HOSPITAL continued from page 9

fund construction of the multi-million-dollar building. Board members agreed to further develop some architectural renderings of what the project might look like as part of an upcoming fund-raising feasibility study.

During the report of the Performance Improvement Committee, Vice President for Operations and Compliance Officer Frank Leslie gave an overview of the hospital's ongoing efforts to reduce or eliminate medication dispensing errors. The issue is very much in the news these days, he said, because of the problems of another health-care provider in the region. Leslie said Highlands-Cashiers Hospital has an aggressive program in place, and recently conducted a special in-depth study. The medication dispensing error rate for the Fidelia Eckerd Nursing Center was only 0.01 percent. For the hospital it was 0.2 percent, well below the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services' threshold of 5 percent. Leslie said none of the errors represented life-threatening events. In the case of both the nursing center and the hospital, the largest category for errors was that of omission, where patients or residents did not receive their medication dose, rather than instances where patients or resident were given wrong medication.

In his report, President and CEO Ken Shull reported on the various activities the hospital conducted during American Heart Month (February) around the area. Two mini heart fairs were conducted (one in Cashiers and one in Highlands) which drew an estimated 80 participants. Healthy cooking demos, information booths, blood pressure checks, and vouchers for cholesterol screening lab work were offered. Health-Tracks, the fitness and cardiac rehabilitation program at the hospital, also held an open house. As well as a special luncheon for its cardiac rehab patients during February.

The board also passed a resolution recommended by Shull in support of a joint effort by the WNC Health Network, Mountain Area Health Education Center, and Mission Hospitals, to persuade the state university system to create a program that will allow third- and fourth-year medical students to work in western North Carolina as part of their medical schooling. Supporters hope that will help possibly convince those students to come back to WNC to practice when they graduate.

Shull reported that Emergency Medicine Director Tony Fisher, MD, will soon be leaving the hospital's emergency room to work full-time at Park Ridge Urgent Care in Fletcher, NC. Other physicians will be picking up the slack in staffing, so coverage will not be affected. The hospital has already begun looking for a physician who is board-certified in emergency medicine to take on the duties of ER director.

The hospital's recent push to improve the quality of its food service is paying initial dividends, Shull told directors. Chef and former Cashiers restaurant owner David Sanborn was hired last month as part of

the hospital's food service management team. He is the hospital's kitchen manager. Shull said the number of complaints about the hospital's food — which accounts for nearly all patient complaints — has fallen off significantly. And in many instances the

food service is getting compliments, he said.

Shull reminded the board that a survey team from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations is expected to visit the hospital virtually any day now to conduct a three-year re-accreditation review.

The Girls' Clubhouse eradicates germs



At a recent rainy Friday afternoon meeting, members of The Girls' Clubhouse disinfected and wiped down every door knob, door handle, door panel, railing and locker knob in the Highlands School. Maybe their efforts helped kill at least some of the germs plaguing people on the plateau this winter.. Pictured are Sydney and Skylar Wagner, Jackie Reyes and Shelby Houston.

... LETTERS continued from page 3

useful to compare both unreserved fund balance and total fund balance to total fund expenditures. Unreserved fund balance represents 41 percent of total General Fund expenditures, while total fund balance represents 49 percent percent of that same amount."

So, if the public can't rely on the Annual Report, where can we go to get good information.

The commission brought in Bryan Starnes, representing the firm that does the audit for the county. Starnes seemed to confirm everything "some people" have been saying even though the appointment of the auditing firm needs annual confirmation and the commission could fire them on a

moment's notice.

Starnes did a masterful job of dancing but, if one listened objectively, his responses indicated that Macon County is flush with excess funds. The story also explained that Macon County's policy does not define a 25 percent fund balance in the traditional manner. It further explains that the policy is incalculable, for all practical purposes.

The Commissioners are given credit for the lowest tax rate in the state. Knowledgeable citizens know that "some people" have been instrumental in achieving the current tax rate.

Don Swanson
Macon FreedomWorks



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Honey Praline Ham

Prep time: 20 minutes

Cook time: 1 to 3 hours

Servings: 25 to 30 (3-ounce) slices

1 (8- to 12-pound) bone-in ham or spiral cut ham

1 (16-ounce) jar Cajun Injector

Honey Praline Marinade with injector

1 (3.25-ounce) canister Cajun

Injector Praline Topping

Preheat oven as instructed on ham packaging. Pour marinade in measuring cup; warm approximately 40 seconds in microwave. Inject marinade evenly throughout ham using approximately 1 1/2 ounces per pound of meat. After injecting with marinade, cover ham; bake according to package directions. Remove ham from oven; pat topping evenly over ham. Return ham to oven; bake 30 more minutes basting with pan drippings. Remove ham from oven; allow to rest covered before carving.

Sweet Potato Casserole

Prep time: 15 minutes

Cook time: 35 to 45 minutes

Servings: 7 (5-ounce) servings

1/4 cup evaporated milk



1 teaspoon vanilla extract

2 eggs

3 tablespoons butter, melted

1 (29-ounce) can Bruce's

Sweet Potato Casserole

with (4-ounce) can

Pecan Crumb Topping

4 tablespoons butter, softened

Preheat oven to 350° F. Combine

milk, vanilla, eggs, melted butter and casserole mix, blending well. Place topping in separate bowl; cut in softened butter and mix until crumbly. Pour mixture in 9- by 9- by 2-inch baking dish; sprinkle with topping. Bake 35 to 45 minutes.

Southern-Style Bread Pudding with Rum Sauce

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 50 minutes

Servings: 8 servings

1 egg, beaten

1 3/4 cups milk

1/4 cup butter or

margarine, melted

1 box Bruce's

Southern Style Bread Pudding Mix

6 cups loosely packed

French bread, torn

into 1-inch pieces

Preheat oven to 350° F. Combine egg, milk, and butter in large mixing bowl. Add bread pudding mix; blend well. Stir in bread pieces. Pour into greased 8- by 8- by 2-inch baking dish. Bake 50 minutes or until knife inserted near center comes out clean. Cut into individual portions and cover with rum sauce.

Rum Sauce

1 tablespoon butter

1/3 cup granulated sugar

2 1/2 teaspoons cornstarch

3/4 cup milk

2 tablespoons white or dark rum

Melt butter in small saucepan over medium heat. Mix together sugar and cornstarch; stir into butter. Pour milk in pan; cook stirring frequently until mixture begins to boil. Continue cooking until thick, stirring constantly. Remove from heat; stir in rum. Serve warm over bread pudding.

• Courtesy of Family Features

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MIRROR LAKE AREA This home has just undergone a complete remodel, new heat, new air, floors, walls, electric, plumbing, kitchen and decks. Walk to Mirror Lake or town. Nice, flat lot make this a must see. Offered at \$399,000. MLS #64057



SEQUOYAH LAKEFRONT HOME. This 3 bedroom 4.5 bath home sits on 1.18+/- acres on Lake Sequoyah. Great in-town location just minutes from Main Street and walking distance to "On The Verandah" Restaurant. Large Master Suite with stone fireplaces in the bedroom and master bathroom. Enjoy the expansive lake views throughout the house, open decks and your own private dock. Start making your family traditions this year on Lake Sequoyah. Offered at \$1,295,000. MLS# 64498



DESIREABLE IN TOWN Village Walk Condo. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths with many upgrades including 2 stone fireplaces, eat-in kitchen, screened porch, and beautiful built ins. Must see how lovely this unit shows. Offered at \$925,000.



MIRROR LAKE HOME. Listen to the sounds of water spilling over the Mirror Lake Dam or fish from the deck of this charming 3 bedroom, 3 bath cottage with an additional 1 bedroom, 1 bath guest cottage. Only minutes from Main Street this property is a lasting example of quintessential Highland's Lake House charm. Recent updates to the décor make this one move in ready. Great rental potential. Offered at \$995,000. MLS# 64244



HIGHLANDS MOUNTAIN CLUB. Unit #604, lovely 2 bedroom, 2 bath Highlands Mountain Club Unit has a wooded view with a winter view of a small lake. Light and airy, a great canvas to make your own taste and a great getaway. Offered furnished at \$275,000. MLS #64294



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Architect Paul Schmitt chosen for library renovation

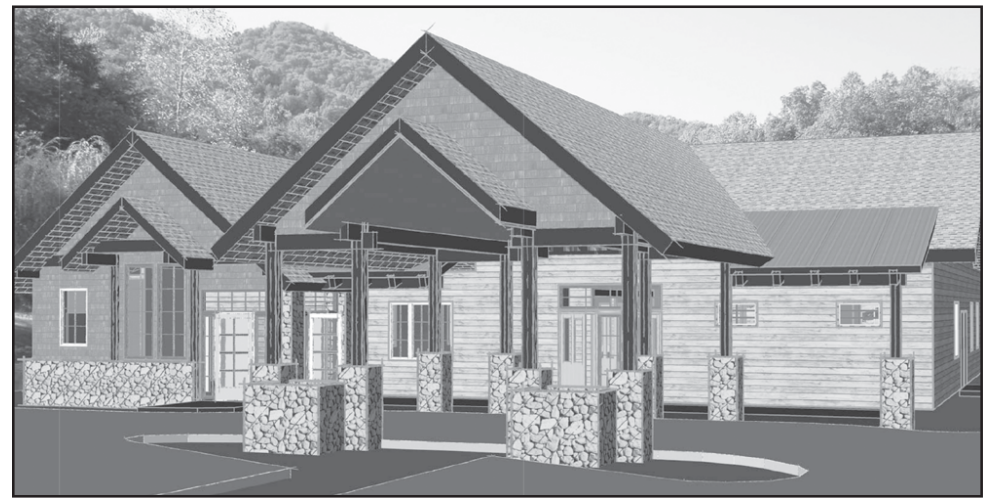
By Katie Brugger

The Hudson Library Board of Trustees has chosen local architect Paul Schmitt of Paul Schmitt Architectural Design Studio, PLLC to design and oversee the renovation and expansion of the current library building located at 554 Main Street.

Last year local architects were asked to submit proposals for renovating the current library facility and expanding library activities into the space currently occupied by the Bascom-Louise Gallery. Mr. Schmitt's design was selected because of his commitment to completing the renovation with as little disruption of library service as possible as well as his concepts for using the newly available space and creating a pleasing exterior in keeping with Highlands' mountain style.

Schmitt plans to make the design of this project an all-Highlands effort, which is in keeping with the special character of the Hudson Library. Landscaping design will be done by James Tate of Tate Landscaping Service, Inc. and interior design will be provided by Jean Macrea of Jean Macrea Interiors, Inc.

The current library building, completed in 1985, must be updated to comply with current accessibility, lighting, and fire protection standards as well as provide key



Renovations will make the library complex more user-friendly.

areas of library service considered important by residents and visitors to the Highlands community. The space vacated by the gallery will be used to provide a multi-purpose room for children's programs, author talks, meetings, lectures, and films; a "library living room" for comfortable reading in front of a gas fireplace; and expanded audio-visual and computer areas.

Schmitt grew up in Highlands and first learned the craft of building design at his father's firm, Schmitt Building Contractors. After graduating from Clemson University, Schmitt returned to Highlands and joined with Dennis DeWolf to form the partner-

ship DeWolf and Schmitt Architects. In 1998 Schmitt founded his own firm, Paul Schmitt Architectural Design Studio, PLLC. In addition to private area residences, he has designed many familiar Highlands buildings including Wild Thyme restaurant and Regions Bank.

The Hudson Library, one of the oldest public libraries in the state of North Carolina, was founded 125 years ago by Highlanders and has been nurtured and supported by the community all through its history. The Hudson Library will be hosting an open house on Sunday, April 27, from 2-5 p.m. The public is invited to come see the plans for the renovation and tour the building with the architect and library board members.

The coming year will open an exciting chapter in the story of the Hudson Library.

... ANOTHER VIEW continued from page 5

I frantically waved a twenty dollar bill in the air as they made their final pass, hoping it was enough to buy my freedom.

I hadn't intended this to happen when I started, but columns, like children, sometimes go their own way. If you don't want me to hit you up, stop reading now. STOP! Many of you are aware of my enduring interest in Haiti, and the hospital and mission in Cange. I received another e-mail last week, this one warning of an impending humanitarian disaster. I don't know all the details, but apparently waste from the mission is threatening to contaminate the water supply. Clean water is a scarce and precious commodity in Haiti. I'm told that the solution involves a biodigester and harvesting methane gas to use for cooking. Sounds good. Sounds expensive. Feel no need to stammer that you gave at the office. You won't have to avert your eyes from mine and explain that you give to Bolivia. I don't even know who you are. If you would like to help out, I promise that every penny you give will get to Cange, and I promise further to match every contribution. I should send this to my buddy in Connecticut. I don't think he gets the Highlands' Newspaper out there. Send contributions to Henry Salzarulo, P.O. Box 2742, Highlands, NC 28741. If you don't write "Haiti" on the memo line, I might think your offering is a tip for fine writing.

• THANK YOU •

The Junior Class at Highlands School again wants to thank the students, parents, faculty and staff of Highlands School and members of this wonderful community for supporting our fundraising dinner on March 14. We sold out our meal at 104 great-tasting rib-eye steak dinners and everyone commented how fantastic the dinner was.

We also would like to acknowledge and thank BI-LO and their Franklin store for their tremendous generosity. BI-LO donated the rib-eye steaks, the grill to cook them, the potatoes and salad. We want to personally thank Margret Medlin, store manager, and Lisa Price, assistant manager, for being so helpful and supportive. Their willingness to make our event successful, and to be involved in our school and community, deserves our utmost praise and words of thanks.

Thank you to Mr. Hickman, Ray Archer and Patrick Herz for their talents on the grill. Thank you to Mrs. McIntyre-Ross and Mrs. Holt for all your hard work, and to Mrs. Zachary for allowing us to use the cafeteria to seat everyone. Our class was blessed with another successful fundraiser for prom and graduation.

Casey Jenkins
President, Class of 2009

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airs at 7 am, 9 am, 4 pm, 6 pm,
9 pm, and 11 pm.

Senator Snow address 'League' about current issues

By Sally Hansen
Reporter

Senator John Snow was the featured speaker at Thursday's monthly League of Women Voters' meeting in Franklin.

Snow said water quality is one of the important issues he has addressed in the past and continues to be of importance. "We have established a few conservation areas out of old watersheds. In Jackson County over 1,100 acres have been set aside for preservation," Snow said. Another planned conservation area is in the works for Cherokee County. "We have also appropriated \$100 million to the Clean Water Management Trust Fund for funds to work on sewer projects that have to do with clean water," he said.

Affordable healthcare is on the forefront, too. He said a basic level of quality healthcare at an affordable cost should be available to all U.S. citizens. He said the U.S. Constitution says all citizens having the right to the pursuit of happiness, saying that health care almost should have been in our Constitution. "I don't think they realized it was going to be a big issue when they wrote the Constitution, but you're aren't too happy if you're not healthy," he said.

However, before states can pass laws allowing every citizen access to basic healthcare needs, Snow said that there has to be some support from the national level. "We stand ready to do something, but we also have to have help from the Washington leadership to get that started. Everyone has to cooperate if we're going to do it, and it will take major legislation and major drive from both sides of the fence of nonpartisan politics to make happen," Snow said.

The senator also informed the attendees that a bill had been signed into law that changed the age at which a person can be executed. Previously, this age was 17 years, but it has now been raised to 18 years of age.

"The Supreme Court said it was cruel and unusual to execute a 17-year-old, so this new law gives officials time to make sure all evidence has been presented," Snow said. This is in response to many people previously on death row who have subsequently been cleared of the charges in light of information such as DNA evidence.

Additionally, Snow mentioned that other states have held a sales-tax-free day during which consumers can purchase any

energy efficient appliance that has an Energy Star rating, and they do not have to pay state sales tax on the purchase. He has been active in trying to get one of these tax-free days to take place in North Carolina. "The state will lose money, but it's worth it in the long run because it saves energy," Snow said.

There is also a proposed project to turn 250 acres of land in Transylvania County into a solar energy farm. Snow said that about 400 acres of land where a former film production manufacturing facility used to be in the DuPont State Forest make up the property, and if it comes to fruition it will be the largest solar energy farm in the U.S.

Snow also made reference to a teacher cadet program that is currently underway to provide opportunities for kids who are interested in teaching as a career. "This program allows them to do things during the summer to so they can find out if they want to be a teacher," he said. It works alongside the Teaching Fellows program, which offers scholarships to prospective teachers in exchange for service to the state as teachers in public schools.

The senator also addressed the issue of risky behaviors among children and

teenagers. He said he had spoken with Dale Galloway, a parent in Jackson County who had lost his son Connor to the choking game in October of last year, a mere three weeks before Macon Middle School eighth-grader Sarah Beck died playing the same tragic "game." Snow has also been talking with Jackson County Sheriff Jimmy Ashe about how to prevent these tragic deaths.

"We need to scare kids by telling them that this is what can happen and by showing them pictures of what things like meth use can do to you. My idea was that we could keep them from trying things for the first time, because kids think a lot about how they look," he said. Snow is working with other members of the legislature to help get support for such a program.

He spoke of a proposed video that could be prepared by UNC-TV to show the different types of behaviors that are risky so that kids will know that they shouldn't do these things. These behaviors include speeding, drunk driving, and the choking game.

At the end of the meeting attendees had the opportunity to ask questions of the Senator.

... HIS & HERS continued from page 8

Veterans Day Memorial Service. It being Paris, we got to sing for some interesting visitors, too, including George Bush, senior, and Julia Child. I even met my ex-husband in the choir, singing Handel's "Messiah" (Handel has a lot to answer for.....).

Much as I would have loved to join a choir in New York, I found that working full time for the bank, and doing my Master's degree at night at NYU didn't leave me any free time. I sang in the choir of the Church of the Good Shepherd at Christmas time, and regretted not being able to make more of a commitment to them than I could. I longed to belong to a choir again, and missed the camaraderie that only choristers know.

This brings me to the present day, and the choir of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation here in Highlands. Several people encouraged me to join, and I have to admit I'd gotten used to sleeping late on Sundays, and watching "CBS Sunday Morning." I don't think you should join any group unless you intend to serve faithfully, and give them your best effort. I decided to join for the summer, when even my modest talents might be appreciated. That summer turned into fall, then winter, and I'm still there. Our choir director, Fletcher Wolfe, is the former director of the Atlanta Boy Choir. He is tough and talented and doesn't suffer fools, gladly or otherwise. We have an enormous

amount of fun, but work hard, too. Singing in this choir is turning out to be one of the biggest joys of moving to Highlands. I have a tremendous amount of love and respect for my fellow choir members, especially the young people – mostly college students – who grace us with their youthful exuberance and talent. And while we may act like devils during practice, I sure hope we sound like angels during our performances.

This leads me to a shameless plug for our latest offering. The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation is inviting everyone to the Good Friday Service at 7 p.m. on March 21. Fletcher Wolfe will be directing the church choir and soloists in Brahms' "Requiem." As an additional treat, tenor Darrel McGhee, will be singing the Spiritual, "Crucifixion." Please come early to get a good seat. I'm sure you won't be disappointed.

• About the Author: Michelle A. Mead is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She lives on top of a mountain near Highlands. Michelle is a member of the Highlands Writers Group. She sings in the alto section of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands. Halos are optional.

... BRUGGER continued from page 7

faithful to a spouse, or traversing the emotional spaces of admitting to your spouse that you have had an affair and then healing the relationship, Hollywood always takes the easy way and follows the simplest emotional storyline: revenge. "Fatal Attraction" is really a horror film, a warning to never stray from the straight and narrow.

For all the sex you see around us everyday — mostly exploited to sell merchandise—our culture is still ridiculously puritanical. And the rigidity results in tragedies like Eliot Spitzer and Larry Craig.

I like this passage I found from a September 2006 issue of Time magazine ("Censuring the Movie Censors," by Richard Corliss): "Once upon a time, in the late '60s and early '70s, there was something that deserved the term adult entertainment. It delved responsibly into mature themes for a wide, grown-up audience. Midnight Cowboy, which won the Oscar as best picture of 1969, was rated X; if you weren't at least 18, you couldn't see it. I don't remember mass complaints that kids couldn't see these films. We now live in an age of instant gratification. The kids can't wait for their adrenaline fix, and the moguls can't wait to peddle it to them. What this gives us is violent entertainment for the young. What it deprives us of is mature entertainment for the mature."



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Highlands Clergy Association hosts ecumenical events

Station of the Cross and Sunrise Easter Service

As Christians around the world gather this week for Holy Week and Easter, the Highlands Clergy are offering two unique ecumenical events to help our community celebrate the two most glorious events of our faith – Jesus' death and resurrection.

The Highlands Clergy Association meets quarterly to determine ways to bring folks of all denominations together

for services, projects and fellowship. Some of our lasting accomplishments are the Thanksgiving Service, Baccalaureate Service, Blessing of the School, Sunday Ecumenical Service, and Good Friday Station of the Cross. This year we will continue the Good Friday Stations of the Cross and add to the list what has traditionally been the Presbyterian's gift to the community, the Sunrise Easter Service.

Stations of the Cross is a traditional custom observed by pilgrims to Jerusalem. Beginning at the ruins of the Fortress Antonia and ending at the church of the Holy Sepulcher, pilgrims offer prayers at significant stops along the road called the *Via Delarosa*, translated: the Sorrowful Way. The number of stations has been fixed at fourteen, eight of which are directly recorded in the Gospels. The other six stations are adapted from inferences in the Gospels and traditional legends. These six are sometimes omitted. This year the procession will include all fourteen stations, divided among the churches we pass in route from Our Lady of the Mountain to Highlands First Baptist Church.

The First station will begin at noon Good Friday, March 21 at Our Lady of the Mountain. While in procession, the newest addition to our churches, Les Scott (director of music at the Highlands Methodist Church) will be leading the music.

Our second offering is the Sunrise Easter Service. Easter is one of the few dates in the church calendar that is moveable. It was determined at the Council of Nicea in 325 AD that Easter would follow on or after the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox, which is fixed on March 21. Easter can never fall on March 21 or after April 25. Thus, this year's Easter is the earliest Sunday that it will occur in our lifetime! The next time it will fall on March 23 is in

2228 and the next time it falls on the earliest date possible will be March 22, 2285. Those of you who are 95 years young or older remember the last time Easter was this close to the Equinox. The first Easter Service was traditionally held at sundown on the night before Easter Sunday, observing our Jewish origins, which began the new day at sundown. It was a time for new converts to the faith to be baptized sometimes following a three year instructional process. However, it has become a tradition for many churches to hold their first Easter service at Sunrise.

Sunday, March 23 at 7 a.m. the Highlands clergy will be hosting a Sunrise Easter Service at the Nature Center Amphitheatre, located at the end of Main Street towards Horse Cove. Please bring a blanket to sit upon. The Rev. Hunter Coleman will preach and Les Scott of Highlands Methodist Church will lead the music, along with help from our local bagpiper David Landis. All Highlands clergy have been invited to participate. After the service the First Baptist Church has invited everyone to its fellowship hall for a free breakfast. It is our hope you will come out and enjoy this unique and powerful morning of praising the glory of our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

If you have any questions about the Highlands Clergy Association or would like to participate please email The Rev. Brian Sullivan.

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... SEPTIC continued from page 1

program and the impact has been a loss of approximately \$270,400 in potential program revenues which represent an increase of the same in county net cost for environmental health services."

Other changes include a priority list.

Failed or failing systems in need of repairs will get first priority; second priority will be hardship situations — people whose homes have burned down or handicapped people; third will be individuals — builders, Realtors, or homeowners — with a firm closing date or construction deadline; and the fourth priority will be given to those without a firm deadline — closing or construction.

For those in the third and fourth category, permitting will be done in chronological order based on the date logged into the system which depends on when the complete application package and payment is received.

In addition, Bruckner said he has encouraged the department to "batch" work. "For instance, if an inspector is going to Nantahala, they will be encouraged to do all the work they can in that area that day,"

he said. "This way staff can make the best use of their time when traveling the county."

North Carolina alternates with Tennessee as either one or two in the nation where the largest percentage of the population uses septic systems.

"The state average is 40 percent but due to its geography Western North Carolina is closer to 52 percent," said Bruckner.

The number of new applications submitted annually for septic permits has risen by 28% over the last seven years from 1,100 in 2000 to more than 1,400 in 2007.

"In the past two years, even with the downturn in the real estate market, the number of initial applications received has remained steady," said Bruckner.

Macon County data indicates that the number of permits has increased from approximately 1,400 in 2000 to 2,247 in 2007 which includes 1,689 initial permits and 558 operational permits.

Macon County's data parallels patterns in other rural communities which rely on septic fields.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Were You There?



Chaplain Margaret Howell
Holy Family Lutheran Church – ELCA

Holy Week, the week between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday is a difficult for clergy. It's not just the many extra services and endless preparations that are required, but the gravitas of what they represent.

In the story of the last days of Christ's life on earth, we come face to face with just how evil human beings can be toward one another.

We hear the betrayal, we taste the sweat, we smell the dust and the blood of Christ's passion, and it is so hard, so very hard. It is during Holy Week that we come face to face with the hard reality of what it took to secure our salvation. People often ask, "Why did God chose this way?" It's so brutal!! Wasn't there some other way?"

Some people tell me that they don't believe in the devil -- they say he is just a fairy tale.

I don't know if I buy into the image of the guy in a red suit with horns and a tail — but I do know that evil, or sin or Satan or whatever you want to call it, is very real.

Who else but the devil could turn the hearts and minds of people against a man of peace to the point that they want to kill him? Who else but the devil could mess with Judas' mind and cause him to betray Jesus? Who else but the devil would try to take out the Son of God in the most gruesome way imaginable? God is nothing if not ironic.

Jesus took the very weapon that was supposed to defeat him and used it, not his end and our end, but to a beginning.

Imagine this:

You have been tried and found guilty of a capital crime. You stand before the judge in the courtroom as he sentences you to death. Then, the judge rises and comes down from the bench. He removes his robe and puts on your orange jumpsuit. He places your shackles on his own hands and feet and allows himself to be led away and put to death in your place.

Why would anyone do this? It is almost too difficult to imagine — but it happened.

Was it awful? Yes. Was it violent and cruel? Yes. Mel Gibson went a bit overboard with that aspect of the Passion, but he made his point — God so loved us that He was willing to suffer as deeply as a human being could suffer in order to defeat sin and death. *Somehow, it was necessary to take place in this way*

Isaiah, perhaps the greatest of the Old Testament prophets, wrote about would happen in what has been called the "Song of the Suffering Servant"

Isaiah 53 vs. 1-5:

Who has believed what we have heard?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

• 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.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 Worship;
6:30 p.m. High School Group
Wednesdays: 5:30 p.m. Supper (free for kids 8th grade and under); 6:15 p.m., Adult Bible Study; 6:30 p.m. programs for students.

THURSDAYS: 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

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

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

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

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

4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry

Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice

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

10:30 A.M. Daughters of the King

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

FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN

Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor • 828-369-7977
Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m.
(nursery provided)

Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.

Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by childrens
Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Jr & Sr Youth Group 6:30 p.m.;

Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

Small groups available throughout the week.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Mark Kayser, Interim Pastor

Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175

Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun.School – 9:30 & 9:45.

Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men's Bible Discussion & Breakfast

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – Seekers

Choir – 7

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study

Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.;

5 p.m. Youth Group

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

studies; 6:15 – Adult choir

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

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

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell

2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741

Maundy Thursday 5 p.m.

Good Friday 5 p.m.

Easter Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

Visitors expected!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. Sundays at 7 p.m. through Labor Day. Dress is casual. Old fashioned hymn-sing.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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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

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Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.

For more information, call (706)-745-1842.

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Rev. Tien, Priest

Parish office, 526-2418

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Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.

(through last Saturday of October)

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.;

Evening Worship – 6 p.m.

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

For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Wayne Price

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

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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

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 21

For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground;

He had no form or majesty that we should look at him,

Nothing in his appearance that we should desire him,

He was despised and rejected by others;

A man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised and we held him of no account.

Surely he has bourn our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

And like sheep we have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

A dear friend of mine, Rev. Leroy, a man of great wisdom and faith, has endured hard times, but he has never for-

gotten "who and whose he is." He has suffered despair and tragedy but has survived it, not by his own strength, but by his faith in God.

He recently told me;

"Man stumbles and falls, but Jesus never stumbles and he never falls.

When we try and go our own way, we stumble. If we lean on Jesus we never stumble."

The Apostle Paul urges us to "put on the armor of God."

But even the best armor has a weak place, a chink just big enough for the devil to slip his dagger through. And it can happen to anyone. It is not because the armor isn't strong enough, it's because we aren't strong enough. By ourselves, we are helpless, *but in Christ we are given hope and new life.*

And this is the heart of Holy Week. In the sorrow and anguish of the passion, we are reminded of how costly grace really is, and who paid it for us.

May your Holy Week be filled with the joy and peace of believing.

May the blessings of God follow you all the days of your lives. Amen.

... MILESTONE continued from page 1

agendas, plans and problems we all have," said County Commission Chairman Charlie Leatherman. "Working together, we can make our county what it needs to be."

The last time such a meeting took place was March 1, 1989.

"It's important now and into the future that this is done on a regular basis," he said. "We need to lay a path; direct a path that the county and towns will take and being faithful to that cause is important. We don't all see things the same way but we have to have a vision and a purpose for the people who elected us to serve them."

A representative from each group was asked to discuss issues facing each entity.

New Franklin Town Manager Sam Greenwood said the process of changing the town government to the Town-Manager form was foremost for Franklin and the reason he was hired. "We are establishing a new form of government and then in about two years, a new town manager will be brought in with the basics already in place."

He said the new form of government will give the town council more time to concentrate on planning and goal setting and moving ahead for the future.

"We're all facing the same issues involving a number of topics — population

density, water and wastewater issues, transportation and how to deal with growth," he said. "This is a commonality we all have to share in the future."

He said, and later Leatherman agreed, that the county and its municipalities need to depend on each other and work with each other rather than depending on the state government whose affiliation "has become a burden rather than a partnership," said Greenwood.

Mayor Don Mullen asked the county and the Town of Franklin to consider working with Highlands in its free community health clinic or even starting one in Franklin.

He said 57% of the clients seen at the clinic each Thursday night are from Franklin, 22% are from Highlands, 15% are from Cashiers and 5% are from North Georgia.

"This has become so successful it's a problem," he said. "On one night a week, one doctor and one physician assistant see 48 patients."

He said Angel Hospital gives \$50,000 in free laboratory work, as does the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

"We have met a need in the area, but it's a need Macon County needs to be aware of. Perhaps Franklin could start a clinic, too, or we could go in on it together and go bigger."

•See MILESTONE page 23

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... FORUM continued from page 2

your life and maybe die or be crippled why then you've got no rights. You haven't even the right to say yes or no or I'll think it over. There's plenty of laws to protect guys' money even in war time but there's nothing on the books says a man's life's his own.

Of course a lot of guys were ashamed. Somebody said let's go out and fight for liberty and so they went and got killed without ever once thinking about liberty. And what kind of liberty were they fighting for anyway? How much liberty and whose idea of liberty? Were they fighting for the liberty of eating free ice cream cones all their lives or for the liberty of robbing anybody they pleased whenever they wanted to or what? You tell a man he can't rob and you take away some of his liberty. You've got to. What the hell does liberty mean anyhow? It's just a word like house or table or any other word. Only it's a special kind of word. A guy says house and he can point to a house and prove it. But a guy says come on let's fight for liberty and he can't show you liberty. He can't prove the thing he's talking about so how the hell can he be telling you to fight for it?

No sir anybody who went out and got into the front line trenches to fight for liberty was a dam fool and the guy who got him there was a liar. Next time anybody came to him gabbling to him about liberty — what did he mean next time? There wasn't going to be any next time for him. But the hell with that. If there could be a next time and somebody said let's fight for liberty he would say mister my life is important. I'm not a fool and when I swap my life for liberty I've got to know in advance what liberty is and

whose idea of liberty we're talking about and just how much of that liberty we're going to have. And what's more mister are you as much interested in this liberty as you want me to be? And maybe too much liberty will be as bad as too little liberty and I think you're a dam fourflusher talking through your hat and I've already decided that I like the liberty to walk and see and hear and talk and eat and sleep with my girl. I think I like that liberty better than fighting for a lot of things we won't get and ending up without any liberty at all. Ending up dead and rotting before my life is even begun good or ending up like a side of beef. Thank you mister. You fight for liberty. Me I don't care for some.

See the March 27 edition for Part 2

... MILESTONE from page 22

County Manager Jack Horton said he was very glad to see the three entities working together and said all three entities need to discuss economics, land use, technology, human services, and public safety issues which they all need to be involved with.

"We need to collaborate to address these issues," he said. "We're from different towns, but we all live in Macon County."

The group agreed to meet three times a year with the next meeting in Franklin sometime in the summer and the following meeting in Highlands during the fall.

"It's important that we work together," said Leatherman in closing. "We need to be proactive, not reactive and provide vision, purpose and leadership for the people who elected us to serve them."

... SILT continued from page 1

DENR, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Dept., and the U.S. Wildlife Services to discuss regulatory requirements.

Having covered all the bases, Altamont suggested hydraulic dredging and pumping with remote dewatering and excavation with over-the-road sediment transport.

Where to deposit silt removed from water bodies is always a problem, but the county has stepped in to help.

After the silt is dewatered in a centrifuge it will be loaded on to trucks and hauled to the Macon County Landfill on Rich Gap Road for use as topsoil once the construction and debris pit is capped.

"This can be done within eight months to coincide with the capping of the landfill," said Kimel. "The silt will be deposited on top of their tight clay cap and will be more conducive to vegetative growth."

Commission Amy Patterson asked if it was necessary to dredge all 42,000 yards of silt, but Kimel said getting it all and following up with a sound storm water plan would be best.

"It costs \$100,000 just to bring the dredge up here and put it on site," he said.

Commissioner Dennis DeWolf asked if the silt was marketable but Kimel said it wasn't because it's gritty, sandy and it erodes easily.

The sediment samples that were analyzed showed normal levels of everything expected from this region — chromes, and pesticides — but not abnormal levels, he said.

"We went ahead and tested samples because we knew somewhere down the line that information would be required. What we found was elevated levels of chromes, which is normal considering the underlying granite, and pesticides which is due to runoff from area golf courses," he said.

Once the silt is dredged from the creek, it will be deposited on town property directly across from the water treatment plant where two tractor-trailers will be set up side by side. A centrifuge will spin the solids out. Once 50% of the water is removed, it will be transported to the landfill.

Kimel said there will be noise associated with the procedure, but they will only work a normal work day not extended hours and certainly not 24 hours a day.

Due to the Water Resources Development Act passed by Congress this past November, the U.S. Corps of Engineers now has the authority to be involved in environmental projects such as dredging critical lakes. Because of that, the Corps has taken over the project and will act as the lead agency to procure grant money.

Kimel said Washington should look favorable on Highlands' request since the town has been proactive in enlisting Altamont to prepare a Sediment Evaluation and Repair Estimate and has begun a stormwater remediation and prevention plan.

Mayor Don Mullen said he is following in Buck Trotts' footsteps in trying to get money out of Washington.

"The Big Creek arm of Lake Sequoyah is a critical area for the town of Highlands because it is the source of our water supply. The effect of the sedimentation in the lake has resulted in the diminished quality of the town water and it is critical that we either get funded from other governmental agencies or significantly raise our own tax base in order to take care of this situation," said Mayor Mullen.

The town has asked Congressman Heath Shuler to help Highlands get the needed grant money.

Once funded, Kimel said the project would be done during the winter months and would take 4-6 months.

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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Good Friday Service features 'Requiem'



Choir members take a break from travel and singing.

Singers of the church choir at Highlands Episcopal Church of the Incarnation are intensely rehearsing for their presentation this weekend of the beautiful music of Brahms Requiem, 7 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

Many of the 26 choir members travel long distances twice weekly to sing under Grammy Award winning conductor Fletcher Wolfe and international prize winning accompanist Robert Henry.

Several of the singers and accompanist Henry come to Highlands from Atlanta and Jasper, Ga. Another soprano comes from Gainesville and four from Demorest, Ga.

Agnes DeHart, longtime choir member from Franklin, N.C. joins three voice students from Western Carolina University. Paul Strube, bass, lives outside Charlotte and Bob Harris, tenor flies up from Florida.

Reverend Brian Sullivan, the

church's rector, says that such dedication to the church's music program is inspiring and is partly responsible for much of the church's success in attracting many new young people to the congregation. The choir and congregation have increased measurably during the past year and Incarnation is proud to note the success.

The music director of the Brahms' Requiem will gain meaning from corresponding scripture read by church lector, Helen Moore.

The Negro spiritual "Crucifixion" will begin this holy evening's service and will be sung unaccompanied by African American Opera Tenor Darrel McGhee.

This service is open to the public and everyone is invited to attend. Usually the church's programs are capacity attended so you may want to come a little early for best seating.

On-going

• Book Sale at the Jackson County Library. Bargains galore can be found at the Friends of the Library Used Bookstore which is located at 536 West Main Street in downtown Sylva. All bargain books have been priced at 2 for 50 cents and 2 for 25 cents. The pricing is effective immediately. All the profits from the Friends of the Library Bookstore go to support the Jackson County Public Library.

• The Highlands Playhouse is taking reservations for "Always Patsy Cline," Thurs.-Sun., June 19-July 6; "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.

• Highlands Playhouse is taking reservations for its annual Children's Theatre Mond-Fri., July 7-18, taught by instructors with extensive experience in theatre education 9 a.m. to noon for ages 6-10, and 1-4 p.m. for ages 11-16. Please call 828-526-2695 or write or PO Box 896, Highlands, NC 28741.

• Registration is now open for the 2008 summer nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are offered: "WOW! - a World of Wonder" (ages 4-6), "Amazing Animals"

(ages 7-10), "NatureWorks" (ages 7-11), "Mountain Explorers" (ages 10-14), and "Junior Ecologists" (ages 11-15). Some camps are offered more than once during the summer. Sessions run from Tuesday to Friday each week. For complete schedules, costs, and other information, please call 828-526-2623 or visit www.wcu.edu/hbs.

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

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

• Yoga in the bottom floor of Jane Woodruff Building. 10:30 a.m. Thursdays. Call 526-4340.

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

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

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

• "The Circle of Life" support group continues at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital at the Jane Woodward room 201, 10 a.m. until noon. Call Barbara Buchanan at 526-1402 or Florence Flanagan at 743-

2567.

First Mondays

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

Every Monday

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

Every Tuesday

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

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

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

Every Wednesday

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

• Gospel of John Bible Study Pastor Todd Strube is leading a study this spring on the fourth Gospel (using the Ebird Bible Study Series) 6:15 - 7:15 at

HUMC.

• 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 support, 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.

Every Thursday

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

Every Friday & Saturday

• Live music at The Rib Shack every Friday and Saturday night from 7-10 p.m.

Parallel Lives II at ITC March 28 & 29



Parallel Lives returns to the Studio on Main. ITC presents a HCP production of *Parallel Lives II* and *Graceland* on Friday and Saturday, March 28 & 29 at 8:00pm. Actresses include Carla Gates and Breta Stroud (seated) and Bonnie Earman, Jenny King, Diane Rossaza, Mary Bynum (standing) Ronnie Spilton, Sandi Trevathan, and Katie Cochran, (not pictured). Directed by Mary Adair Leslie. *Parallel Lives II* features all new vignettes, including "Disney Moms Therapy Group"...all of the Disney's cartoon characters' mothers, who of course, are never seen in the movies. And *Graceland* is a comedy about two women who meet three days before Elvis' mansion, *Graceland* opens for the first time; each woman claiming the first spot in line and why it is so very important for them to be the first one in the mansion. For reservations please call the ITC box office: 828.342.9197

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Every Friday

• The Girls' Clubhouse meets in the school cafeteria 3-4:30 p.m. All 6-8 grade girls are welcome. Come have fun while serving others. For more information, call Kim Lewicki 526-0782.

Every Saturday

• Live music at Cyprus Restaurant in the Dillard Village Shopping Center at 9:30 p.m. \$10 cover.
• Children's classes ongoing at Bascom-Louise Gallery – cost is \$5 per student.

Friday, March 21

• Beginning at the Catholic church, participants will stop at various places to read an account of the walk Jesus made carrying his cross to Calvary. Familiar hymns will be sung along the way. It takes about 30 minutes and will finish at the Baptist church. If it is raining, bring an umbrella.

• Amercian Red Cross Blood Drive at Angel Medical Center Blood Drive (120 Riverview Street; Franklin, NC) 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please call 369-4166 for more information or to schedule an appointment. All presenting donors at the Angel Medical Center blood drive will receive a free t-shirt and can enter a drawing for a cruise for two! Eligible blood donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in general good health. Donors must have a form of positive identification in order to donate.

Saturday, March 22

• Easter Egg Hunt at the Highlands Civic Center (Rec Park) at 11 a.m. The event is for ages 0-3 years; 4-6 years; and 7-10 years.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to strenuous 5-6 mile hike in Panthertown Valley to four waterfalls and Little Green Mtn. with an elevation change of 300 feet, one stream crossing, and possibly some icy patches. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9 a.m. Drive 16 miles

round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader, Walker Taylor, 743-6977, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Sunday, March 23

• Ecumenical Sunrise service at 7 a.m. Easter morning at the Nature Center Amphitheatre. If you have any questions about the Highlands Clergy Association or would like to participate please email The Rev. Brian Sullivan at rector@incarnationwnc.org.

Tuesday, March 25

• Free lectures at Cashiers Chiropractic and Wellness Center. "Why do we take the vitamins we do?" To register, call either the Highlands office at 526-3709 or the Cashiers office at 743-9070.

Wednesday, March 26

• Molly Beacham of Democracy North Carolina will be at Buck's at 9 a.m. to discuss congressional and state-level public financing reform, the gubernatorial candidates' campaign reform proposal, and same day registration legislation.

• High Mountain Squares will dance at the Macon County Community Building from 7-9 p.m. Danny Weeks of Conyers, GA. will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344, 706-782-0943, or www.highmountainsquares.org

Fri. & Sat., March 28 & 29

• Parallel Lives returns to the Studio on Main. ITC presents a HCP production of *Parallel Lives II* and *Graceland* at 8 p.m. *Parallel Lives II* features all new vignettes, including "Disney Mom's Therapy Group"...all of the Disney's cartoon characters mothers, who of course, are never seen in the movies. And *Graceland* is a comedy about two women who meet three days before Elvis' mansion, *Graceland* opens for the first time; each woman claiming the first spot in line and why it is so very important for them to be the first one in the mansion. For reservations please call the ITC box office: 828.342.9197.

Thursday, March 27

• Democratic women want to serve you a fine supper! Everyone is invited to the "Loaded" potato supper from 4:30-7 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Franklin. A great selection of homemade chili, veggies, drinks and dessert are available for adults (\$10) and children under 12 (\$5). Take out is available. So Highlanders if you are in Franklin and want to support the Women's Democratic movement, please stop by. For more information call 526-3363 or 349-1772.

Sat.-Sun, March 29-30

• Auditions will be held at Highlands Playhouse Saturday and Sunday from 2-5 p.m. each day. The plays are "On Golden Pond" and "Inherit the Wind" and anyone interested should come prepared with monologue.

Saturday, March 29

• Amercian Red Cross Blood Drive at Otto Community Blood Drive at the Otto Community Center (Highway 441 South; Otto, NC) 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please call Phyllis Castle at 524-9307 for more information or to schedule an appointment. All presenting donors can enter a drawing for a cruise for two! Eligible blood donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in general good health. Donors must have a form of positive identification in order to donate.

• See **EVENTS** page 26

Mountain Lakes 5-K set for May 3



"There's still plenty of time to get in shape for the Mountain Lakes 5-K." That's the word from Race Director Richard Betz. This year's race is scheduled for Saturday, May 3, at 9 a.m., and Betz says that for even casual joggers and walkers, six weeks should be enough time to train for the 3.1 mile event.

"Last year, several age group slots were not filled. For example, any woman between the ages of 40 and 44 could have walked the entire distance and won a first place trophy! In fact, competition seems to be tougher for men in their 50s, 60s, and 70s."

Most runners want to finish a race in a fairly decent time, however, and Betz said that a training program of increasing distance and speed between now and the first weekend in May would help any runner, from beginner to experienced, to a faster finish time.

"Beginning runners should start a training program by running at a comfortable pace as far as they can, even if it is only a block or two. They should then take a walking break for a minute or two and repeat the running segment, alternating running and walking for two to three miles. Eventually, most active people should be able to cover the entire distance with only one or two breaks. It is truly amazing how quickly your body will respond to training! And it's perfectly OK to walk during a 5-K."

"Experienced runners will benefit from adding a long run to their training program at least once a week, and also from some kind of speed-work each week." A rest and recovery day between training sessions will also help the beginner or the experienced runner alike to improve, Betz said.

Three years ago, Betz's wife Martha went from running/walking two miles to running several races, ranging from 5-K to 15-K, to eventually completing a marathon in a little over a year. He cred-

its a carefully-designed training program to her success.

The annual 5-K event is the main fundraiser for the Highlands Roadrunners Club, a local running group that meets weekdays at 4:30 p.m. in front of the Town Hall and Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Now in its ninth year, the race follows a loop that begins on US 64 in front of the Highlands Civic Center, circles around Lake Ravenel and Harris Lake, and finishes on Laurel Street beside First Citizens Bank. Traffic control will be provided throughout the course by Police and volunteers, and those who choose can simply walk the course; since part of the route is on an unpaved gravel road, however, strollers are not recommended.

The entry fee for the race is \$15.00 before race day, and entry forms are available at the Town Hall, the Civic Center, and the Visitors Center, or on line at www.main.nc.us/hrc. Each participant will receive a quality T-shirt, and trophies will be awarded to the overall male and female winners, male and female masters winners (over 40), and to the male and female first, second, and third place finishers in five-year age groups. For more information, call Richard Betz at 526-5266.

As in past years, proceeds will go toward fitness-related programs in the local community. The club awards a number of scholarships each year to Highlands School graduates who carry on some type of fitness activities while continuing their education. The club has also used the proceeds from past races to help purchase fitness equipment for Highlands School, HealthTracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, and the Highlands Recreation Park. The Highlands Roadrunners Club is a non-profit organization, and entry fees and contributions are tax-deductible.

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

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

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Satolah firefighters' benefit needed to raise crucial funds

It's not all that easy to operate an all-volunteer fire station. Local government support only goes so far, according to James Reed, chief of Satolah (Ga.) volunteer firefighters.

And that's why he and his fellow volunteers are hoping for a good turnout, Saturday, March 29, for the station's annual benefit, with food service beginning at 5 p.m., and music at 7 p.m.

"With our own funds, we bought a tanker-pumper truck last year, and we've managed to pay off the note," Reed said. "But now we've got to try to fill the coffers again."

Raising such funds takes some doing, as the routine cost for properly outfitting just one volunteer takes almost \$1,000, he added.

That's why the annual benefit is an event not to be missed!

The public will have a choice of a chicken plate (grilled by the firefighters,) or barbecue plate (the latter provided by Blue Valley BBQ,) with all the trimmings (baked beans, cold slaw and roll). Adults, \$7, and \$3.50 for children. Deserts are extra.

Two local bluegrass favorites will play that night: Country Detour, and The Grass Roots Revue.

As customary, the department also will auction a number of delectable pies and deserts to the crowd, and there will be a raffle as well. Raffle tickets are \$1 each, or six for \$5 – with a chance to win \$300 cash, or a Remington 870 12-gauge shotgun, or a Ruger Model M77 .22 magnum rifle with scope (must be 18 or older to win).

All proceeds go to defray the volunteer station expenses. The station is located 3.5 miles south of the Georgia-North Carolina line on state Route 28 (the Highlands-Walhalla Road.) The public is invited.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4 mile hike with an elevation change of 500 feet up Big Scaly Mtn. for great views to the south and west. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. If coming from Franklin, call leader for alternate meeting place. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

• The Satolah, GA volunteer fire department holds its annual benefit, Saturday at the firehouse on Route 28. Food served (pork barbecue or grilled chicken) at 5 p.m. (\$7 per plate, \$3.50 for children,) with bluegrass music starting at 7 p.m. Two bands – Country Detour and The Grass Roots Revue. The public is invited.

Sunday, March 30

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 3-mile hike on the Park Creek Trail along the Nantahala River at Standing Indian campground where some early spring flowers might be blooming. Drive 30 miles round trip. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 p.m. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Monday, March 31

• At the Art League of Highlands meeting at 5 p.m. at the Rec Park, artist David Knoot will show and speak about his work. Due to the years he spent in the forest industry of Oregon, he was inspired by the natural environment and wildlife. His natural talent and ability to capture fine detail in his graphic pencil drawings has landed his artwork in many private and public collections. Following light refreshments, the meeting will begin. Public is welcome. For more information call 526-9245.

Tuesday, April 1

• Birder Friendly Business and Birder Friendly

Community Training Program 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Macon Bank Building on U.S. 441 in Franklin. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Cost is \$20 includes a light lunch and training materials. The program is designed for businesses and communities near the North Carolina Birding Trail, this training will provide tools and information to market your business and community to birders as they travel the Trail. The program will provide information on special needs for this niche market, as well as specific suggestions and ways to reach this market. Training topics include: birders as clients, enhancing your business and community for birders, hospitality and etiquette, birding basics, and conservation practices.

Wednesdays, April 2-May 7

• Sick and Tired of being sick and tired? The Macon County Cooperative Extension Service is offering a 6-week chronic disease self-management program to help you improve your health one step at a time. Wednesday mornings at the cooperative extension office 9:30 a.m. to noon. To register call Sherrie Peeler at 828-349-2046 or Mary Barker at 828-586-1962.

Wednesdays, April 2-May 14

• A series of seven classes covering the Principles and Elements of Design meets every Wednesday at the Highlands Rec Park from 1 to 4 p.m. Each class will include a brief informative introduction to an element or principle, a fun and quick exercise, and an art project using a variety of materials. Classes include instruction on a variety of painting and drawing materials, as well as Balance, Emphasis, Contrast, Proportion, Repetition, Rhythm and Harmony. call Donna Rhodes at 828.526.4949, 4#.

Saturday, April 5

• Highlands Volleyball Team Fundraiser, 9 a.m. until. Team of 6-8 — \$75, individual — \$12 (will be put on a team) Donations accepted. Best 2 out of 3 with a 45 minute time limit. High school rules — rally to 25, win by 2. Three men allowed per team. 1st and

2nd place prizes. Entry due by April 1. Call Lindsay Gearhart at 371-1017, or 787-1112.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 3-mile hike up Chimney Top Mtn. with an elevation change of 1200' and a 360 degree view on top. Near the summit the trail requires climbing on hands and knees in a couple of places—not a hike for those with health problems. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10 a.m. Drive 7 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettle, 743-1079, for reservations.

Sunday, April 6

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 3-mile hike along an old railroad bed next to the Tallulah River as well as along some woods trails. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitors' Center on Hwy. 441 near Otto at 2 p.m. There is a small parking fee at Terrora Park. Drive 60 miles round trip with an optional supper out. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Thurs.-Sat., April 10-12

• At ITC, Madeleine Davis and David Milford in "The Ice Breaker" by David Rambo is a thought provoking drama following in the footsteps of such plays as Arcadia, Proof and Copenhagen. Reservations are strongly suggested. Call the ITC Box Office at 828-342-9197.

Saturday, April 12

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3.5 mile hike, with an elevation change of 600 feet, to three falls on the Horsepasture River: Turtle

Back, Rainbow, and Stairstep. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9 a.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Walker Taylor, 743-6977, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Wednesday, April 16

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a mid-week 4.5 mile easy-to-moderate hike to Rough Run and High Falls with a small elevation change of less than 200 feet and some scrambling over rocky terrain near High Falls. Meet at the post office/library parking lot in Cashiers at 10:00 a.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Thursday, April 17

• Franklin Community Blood Drive at First Baptist Church 12:30 pm to 5:30 p.m. Please call (828) 369-9559 for more information or to schedule an appointment. All presenting donors can enter a drawing for a trip to Disney World!

Fri.-Sat., April 18-19

• At ITC, Madeleine Davis and David Milford in "The Ice Breaker" by David Rambo is a thought provoking drama following in the footsteps of such plays as Arcadia, Proof and Copenhagen. Reservations are strongly suggested. Call the ITC Box Office at 828-342-9197.

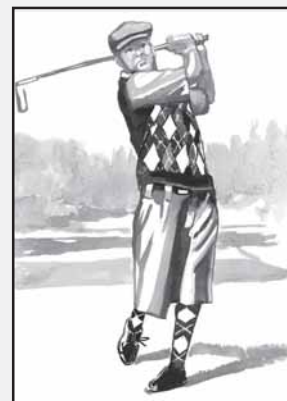
Saturday, April 19

• The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance, Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association, and Whole Life Market are hosting the annual Earth Day celebration at the

MountainTop Rotary Golf Challenge set for May 12

In preparation for the Highlands Mountaintop Rotary Charity Golf Challenge, which will take place on May 12 at the Highlands Country Club, artist Duncan Greenlee re-created the golf fashions of the Bobby Jones era. Greenlee, a member of the Highlands Mountaintop Rotary, created the artwork for the Highlands Mountaintop Rotary Charity Golf Challenge by having a model practice his golf swing while sporting the retro look.

It is the dream of many golfers to be able to play the course that Bobby Jones made famous and Highlands Mountaintop Rotary is now accepting applications for players and sponsors for the Charity Golf Challenge. The player rate is \$250 per player with four players to a team. The format is a four person scramble, but individuals or groups less than four will be grouped into teams and are welcome to



play. So if you're an individual player, a twosome, a threesome, or a foursome please come on out and play, we will

make you a team or part of a four person team. All funds raised will be divided among local profit non-organizations supporting Highlands area residents. A \$50,000 cash prize hole-in-one contest will be held on the 18th hole. This exciting contest is being sponsored by Country Club Properties. The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary would like to thank the Laurel Magazine for signing on as a

sponsor for this great event. Platinum, gold and silver sponsorships are still available to sponsor individual holes and events. Slots are filling quickly, don't miss your chance to play this historic and exclusive course! Contact Rotarian Bill Zoellner to sign up at 828-787-2323.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

The Bascom offers user-friendly art classes

Have you always wanted to make art, but plunging into a workshop was just too daunting? Have no fear. Easy art is here. The Bascom has the perfect way for you to dive into a friendly, nurturing, foundational program designed especially for beginning and intermediate artists.

A series of seven classes covering the Principles and Elements of Design will begin Wednesday, April 2, at the Highlands Rec Park from 1 to 4 p.m.

The class will meet every Wednesday afternoon through May 14. Each class will include a brief informative introduction to an element or principle, a fun and quick exercise, and an art project using a variety of materials. Classes include instruction on a variety of painting and drawing materials, as well as Balance, Em-



Jumpstart your art with this wonderful introduction to the basics, offered by The Bascom. Above, Susan Jaeger works on a piece.

phasis, Contrast, Proportion, Repetition, Rhythm and Harmony.

The second session will cover more drawing and painting techniques, Line, Shape, Color, Size, Texture, Direction, and Value. Because this is an exploration class based on the fundamentals, it is open to all beginners and intermediate students. The instructor will focus on individualized attention. The curriculum is designed to build artistic confidence. Once a student has mastered Elements and Principles, he or she will be ready for more complex

courses and workshops.

If you would like to know more about these classes and other exciting programs at The Bascom, visit <http://www.thebascom.org> or call Donna Rhodes at 828.526.4949, 4#.

Village Green in Cashiers on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 pm. The event is FREE and will be held rain or shine.

•The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a special wildflower hike in the Whitewater River Gorge where at least a million trillium should be in bloom. The 3.5 mile hike is rated moderate with a descent of 800 feet, requiring some cautious footwork in steep places. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. and the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9:50 a.m. Drive 42 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Sun.-Wed., April 20-30

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

Sunday, April 20

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 4.5 mile easy-to moderate hike to Rough Run and High Falls with a small elevation change of less than 200 feet and some scrambling over rocky terrain near High Falls. Wildflowers should be abundant. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 1:30 p.m. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Call leader Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations.

Theatre Lovers Tour XII "Rediscovering Jane Austen"

Jane Austen was a British novelist whose realism, biting social commentary, and masterful use of free indirect speech, burlesque, and irony have earned her a place as one of the most widely-read and best-loved writers in British literature. Highlands Playhouse Board member Joanna Baumrucker is proud to present this ten day tour of Southern England November 1st-11th. Highlights of the tour include: the elegant Georgian city of Bath exploring the restored Roman baths, the lovely city of Winchester, Glastonbury which is famous for its connection to the legend of King Arthur and the Holly Grail, Lacock Village, Thornbury Castle, and a private visit to the Jane Austen home in Chawton. These are just a few of the wonderful things offered. The cost of the trip is \$3,250 per person, double occupancy with single supplement at \$400. For detailed information, please call 526-5858

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Widely recognized as the most fascinating and diverse shopping experience in Highlands!

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ITC presents HCP at
the Studio on Main
in Highlands

Parallel Lives

by Kathy Najimy & Mo Caffney...all new vignettes!

Directed by Mary Adair Leslie

Adult Language
and Mature Content
PG-13

& Graceland

Comedy/drama by Ellen Byron

A one act play about two women at
Graceland three days before the opening of
Elvis's mansion—each claiming, and "needing,"
to be first in line.

Directed by Mary Adair Leslie

HCP
HIGHLANDS
COMMUNITY
PLAYERS

March 28 & 29, 2008 at 8:00 pm

Box Office: 828-342-9197

Instant Theater Company, 310 Main Street, Highlands, NC

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

HELP WANTED

HIGHLANDS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE seeks a motivated, self starter who enjoys interacting with the public. Basic computer skills essential. For a part time position, 30 hours per week. Competitive wage with benefits. Please send resume to president@highlandschamber.org or fax to 828-526-5803.

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

WORK WITH THE BEST. Local Fine Dining Restaurant needs full time prep/line cook and bar service staff. Excellent work environment. Competitive wages and benefits. To apply, call 828-526-2338.

THE INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP CENTER OF HIGHLANDS, NC is seeking part time administrative assistant starting May 1, 2008. Applicant must have both written and oral Spanish knowledge, must be motivated and work well with others. Basic computer skills are necessary. Additional training will be given once applicant begins. For more information please call Jill at 828-526-9938 x 290.

SERVERS AND COUNTER HELP NEEDED at Sweet Treats, Highlands. Call 526-9822.

MAINTENANCE ENGINEER POSITION AVAILABLE at Hampton Inn/Highlands Inn. Year Round/Full time. Must have basic knowledge of electronics, plumbing, minor electrical and construction. Send Resume to P.O. Box 1060 Highlands, NC 28741 or email to info@hamptoninn-nc.com. Call Sabrina for interview 828-526-5899.

HOUSEKEEPER needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full time position available for days. 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.

RNS at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. Full, Part-time and PRN positions available for 12 hour day and night shifts. Excellent wage scale, with shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment

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

EMERGENCY ROOM RNS needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. One Full-time and two Part-time positions available. 12 hour night shifts. Shift and weekend differentials. BCLS and ACLS required. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

DIRECTOR OF NURSING is needed in the beautiful mountains of Western North Carolina. Experienced nurse leader for a 24-bed Critical Access Hospital, responsible for managing a budget, quality of patient care, customer satisfaction, and the oversight of management for the Acute Care Unit (Med/Surg), ER, OR, PACU and GI Lab, Hospice, and Cardio-Pulmonary. Must be able to provide leadership for managers and staff, and conduct recruitment and retention activities. Masters degree with a background in nursing leadership required. This position reports directly to the CEO/President of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, working closely with the QA Nurse Manager and the VP of Operations. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full-time position with 8 and 12 hour shifts. Responsibilities include taking call and being able to respond within 20 minutes. Also must be able to intubate a patient. Current registration or certification in North Carolina, along with current BCLS and/or ACLS required. Experience with rehabilitation and disease prevention preferred. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full time position available Monday through Friday. Must be North Carolina certified. One year experience in hospital setting and CPR certification is preferred. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

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

UNIT CLERK needed at Highlands Cashiers Hospital. Performs clerical duties and acts as receptionist for the nursing unit. Experience in a hospital setting preferred. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

WORK WANTED

RESPONSIBLE CAREGIVER - Available night shifts. (possible live-in) Call Clara at 828-342-1603 or 828-369-9812.

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

EXPERIENCED FINISH CARPENTER: Call Alfredo at 828-349-1590. You can also call the International Friendship Center to see how we can help! 828-526-9938 x 290

CLEANING OR RESTAURANT WORK WANTED: Contact Gloria at 828-371-5806. You can also call the International Friendship Center to see how we can help! 828-526-9938 x 290.

LOOKING FOR A HOUSEKEEPER? Call Dora at 828-200-1038. Call Janet at 828-399-9693 or 828-526-9709. Luz Maria at 349-2735. Cira at 349-1838. Erica at 864-886-9986. You can also call the International Friendship Center to see how we can help! 828-526-9938 x 290

EXPERIENCED TRUCK DRIVER SEEKS FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT: Call Mike at 828-524-4052. You can also call the International Friendship Center to see how we can help! 828-526-9938 x 290.

RETAIL SPACE FOR RENT

RETAIL SPACE FOR LEASE, Hearthstone Center on busy Hwy 64 beside the old Hardee's, 2,052 sq ft, High visibility, Plenty of parking, Great retail location ready to be occupied, central heat & air, carpet, excellent condition, Busy shopping center, Call 828-243-2939 or 828-743-9454 for more information.

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

RESIDENTIAL SPACE FOR RENT

HOUSE FOR RENT (for residence or office): 2 br, 2 ba, Heat/AC, Washer/Dryer hookup, Hwy 64, Franklin, near Walnut Creek. \$750/mo. Call Sandy at 369-6263 or 524-7350.

GREAT 3 BDR/2 BATH COTTAGE IN MIRROR LAKE AREA, less than 1 mile to town, front porch, back deck. Rents monthly for \$1200+utilities, call 770-977-5692. 4/3

SAPPHIRE MOUNTAIN CLUB - Furnished River Run II Condominium, access to all amenities! \$600 monthly plus utilities. First month and \$400 Security deposit required. Contact Kim 342-8490 -- 3/20

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

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

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

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

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

VACATION RENTAL

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

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

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

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

MOTOR COACH SITE -DOWNTOWN HIGHLANDS. With Cedar shake Coach House. Gated. Private. Overlooks active stream. Short walk to shopping and dining. Located at the cor. of Fifth and Chestnut Sts. For all info. visit at your leisure: www.JTIMMS.com/HIDDENCREEK or contact owner directly at 828-526-5333.

LOTS FOR SALE - .85 AC lot off Turtle Pond. Backs to USFS. Views. \$30K; .90 AC lot, drive cut in. \$30k. 2-bed septic approved. Ready to build. New shared well for both. Call Ty at 828-577-9261.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ITEMS FOR SALE

CLASSIFIEDS

OFFICE DESK FOR SALE. 30x60, dark oak finish, 6 drawers. \$150. Call Sandy at 369-6263 or 524-7350.

JEOP RIMS – 17-inch aluminum factory rims off 2005 Jeep Liberty 4x4. Brand new! Complete set of 4 \$800. Valued at \$265 each. Call 706-982-2254.

KING SIZE BEDROOM SET – Complete set includes two nightstands, two chest of drawers, large dresser with mirror. Like new. \$500. Call 706-982-2251.

PAIR OF DESIGNER WING BACK CHAIRS – Fabric with velvet trim. Neutral colors in Brown, cream/gold muted \$375. Coordinating area carpet roughly 8 x 10 (can be cut to size) 526-4340 8-5

BARELY USED 30GB ZUNE VIDEO MP3 PLAYER. Comes with leather case. \$150 or best offer. Call Davis at 828-526-9152 for more information.

BALDWIN ACROSONIC PIANO Excellent condition. \$300. Call 743-5151.

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

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

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

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

SNOW TIRES For Ford Expedition 03-05 factory rims. Complete set of 4 only \$400. Size 17 x 75 J. Call Wolfgang at 526-8396.

POOL TABLE – Peter Vitalie 8' x 50" pool table, burl wood rails, upgrades leather pockets, new upgraded felt – oak in color – \$3,400. Table located in Cashiers, Call 770-313-0899.

BARBOUR COAT Burghley Duster. \$350. Call 526-9027.

MASSEY FERGUSON DIESEL DELUXE 35 WITH POWER STEERING. Completely rebuilt, repainted, new tires. Includes scrape blade, and an 8,000 lbs. tandem axle trailer. Sharp Package! \$7,500. Call (828)526-1684 and leave message.

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

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

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

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

KING-SIZE HEADBOARD, \$40; new glass fireplace screen, (still in box,) polished brass finish, fits fireplace opening Height 24 3/4" - 29 3/4". Width

30" to 37 1/2," \$125. Call 828-371-2999

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

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

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

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

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

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

BEAUTIFUL FLOORING: Wormy white oak flooring, resawn, milled and ready to lay w/ t&g, 6-12" widths, \$8/sq. ft. 215-529-7637

LOG CABIN KIT – 32 x 24 8 1/2 inch yellow Pine logs. Walls only. \$9,999. Call 526-0241.

HILTI TE 805 DEMOLITION HAMMER. New. Case & 4 bits. \$500. 828-526-2700 or 828-421-7886

SLEEPER SOFA – Neutral Plaid. Like New. \$145. Call 864-972-8525.

SOLID DARK OAK DINETTE CABINET. 19"x64"x84". 3 glass windows on top. 3 drawers on bottom. 2 bottom doors with keys. Imported from Belgium. Excellent condition. \$1,500. Call 369-3250.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

EUROPEAN CAR OWNERS – Most European manufacturers require synthetic oils and fluids in their vehicles. AMSOIL has a complete line of oil products to improve mileage and maintenance intervals. Synthetics last longer, reducing environmental waste. AMSOIL is proven #1 and does not void your warranty. Call Clay (828) 342-1603 or 828-369-9812.

1992 TOYOTA CELICA ST – White, AT, 164k, in good shape. Call 828-200-0465.

2002 TOYOTA LANDCRUISER. Bk/tan leather, NAV, wood-grain, 6 CD, 80,400 miles w/ ext. warranty to 116k miles. \$25,000. 770-965-6551

2003 VOLKSWAGON JETTA GLS SEDAN – 4-door, 5-speed, AC, Power Everything. Cruise, Premium Sound System, Moon Roof, Leather Seats, 85,000 miles. \$10,500. Call 526-3606.

2002 TOYOTA TACOMA TRUCK – Good Condition. 67,000 miles, new battery, wipers, tires. \$7,000. 828-526-2416.

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

SERVICES

MILT'S LAWN SERVICE – Lawn mowing, weed eating, yard cleaning & light hauling. Call Bill at 828-524-8659 or Milton at 828-421-7919 or 828-369-3569. 4/10

FIREWOOD "Nature Dried" Call 526-2251.
CUTTING EDGE TREE SERVICE - "Let us go out on a Limb for You." We specialize in tree

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

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

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

J&J LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICES – complete lawn and landscaping service, spring cleanup, gutter cleaning, under-brushing, tree removal, lot clearing, storm cleanup, rockwork, retaining walls, flowerbeds, firewood. 828-526-2251.

SHIPPING SERVICES - STORK'S WRAP, PACK & SHIP UPS Ground & Next Day Air services and large furniture shipping available. Packing services and/or supplies. Gift wrapping and fax services. 323 Hwy 107 N., Cashiers, NC (1/2 mile from crossroads) (828) 743-3222.

HIGHLANDS SHUTTLE SERVICE – Atlanta Airport Shuttle. Drive - Away • Auto Delivery. All Out-of-Town Trips Driving Services. Call 526-8078.

BUSINESSES FOR SALE

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

LOST

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

LOST DOG "SALTY" – Black and white female Lab mix. Medium-size. Missing from around Owl Gap Road on N.C. 106. Please call 828-526-4575.

LEGALS

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of William Jesse Munger, deceased, late of Macon County, N.C, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit hem to the undersigned on or before the 5th day of Jne, 2008, or this notice will be pled in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This the 6th day of March, 2007.

William Fred Munger
P.O. Box 314
Highlands, N.C., 28741
3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27

Public Notice of the May 6, 2008 Primary Election

The Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2008 for all Federal, State, Judicial, Legislative and County Offices. The Polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. To vote in this election you must be a registered voter of Macon County.

Registration Deadline:

Citizens that wish to vote in the 2008 Primary Election must be registered to vote by Friday, April 11, 2008. (G.S. 163-82.6(c) .Voters of Macon County who need to update, or make any changes to their information must also do this by the same date. This does include name changes, party affiliations changes, or address changes. Registration forms if submitted by mail must be postmarked or delivered in person by this day. Registration forms are available at the Macon County Public Library, Highlands Civic Center, Hudson Library in Highlands, Highlands Town Office, Macon County Public Health Center, and the Macon County Board of Elections Office.

Absentee Voting By-Mail:

Absentee voting will be allowed pursuant to G.S. 163-302(b). Absentee voting by mail begins on Monday, March 17, 2008 and will end on Tuesday, April 29, 2008 (G.S. 163-230.1 (a2) (3). These requests may be made in person at the Macon County Board of Elections Office or the voter may request an application by writing to the Macon County Board of Elections at 5 West Main Street, Franklin NC 28734. All requests must include the name, address, party affiliation (due to this being a Primary Election) date of birth of the voter and must be signed by the individual voter. If the voter is unable to request an absentee by mail or in person a near relative may also request an absentee ballot using the same format as listed above, and must also include the relationship to the voter, and the near relative's contact information. (Near relative includes: spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, stepparent, or stepchild). All absentee voted ballots must be returned to the Macon County Board of Election Office by Monday, May 5, 2008 (G.S. 163-231(b). These ballots must be received by mail, commercial courier service, in person by the voter, or by the voter's near relative 5:00 p.m. on this day.

One-Stop Voting:

One-Stop Absentee Voting will begin on Thursday, April 17, 2008 (G.S. 163-227.2) and it will end on Saturday, May 3, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. One-Stop Voting will be available at the Macon County Board of Election Office. The Board of Elections office is located on the 1st floor of the Macon County Courthouse. The hours for One-Stop voting will be Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and in addition to regular office hours the office will also be open on Saturday, April 19, Saturday, April 26, and May 3, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. One-Stop Voting will only be held during these hours, if you do not vote Absentee By Mail or One-Stop you must go to your polling location on Election Day to cast your vote. In-Person One-Stop Registration is for resident that have missed the deadline for voter registration. A resident must fill out a voter registration application and prove residency by providing appropriate identification with current name and current address. In-Person One-Stop Registration is ONLY for ONE-STOP voters, this process in NOT allowed on Election Day.

If you have any questions regarding election matters you may contact our office at 828-349-2034 or visit our web site at www.maconnc.org/elections

Sara R. Waldroop, Chairman
Macon County Board of Elections
3/20, 3/27, 4/3, 3/10

• REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS •

PIN, Address, Grantee, Date, Sale, Grantor, Assessed Value

TOWN OF HIGHLANDS

• 0512703, 85 SHELBY DR UNIT 11, WOLF CHARLES T JR, 1/14/2008, \$365,000., GATEWOOD JAMES C, \$294,170.

• 0501556, 230 KEENER RD, KEENER ARNOLD R LIFE ESTATE, 2/1/2008, \$0., KEENER ARNOLD R LIFE ESTATE, \$278,950.

• 0502217, 101 HIGHLANDS MTN CLUB UNIT 101, PARRISH JUNE LEE, 2/29/2008, \$0., PARRISH ULMER H, \$261,470.

• 0502723, HOLT CIRCLE LOT 14, BRYSON JOHN MICHAEL, 1/3/2008, \$70,000., POTTS JAMES, \$118,780.

• 0502838, 326 MAIN ST, HIGHLANDS ON MAIN LLC, 1/10/2008, \$0., CAMPBELL PATRICIA SKINNER, \$933,290.

• 0503710, 40 DIXON DR LOT 47 SAGEE MTN, PASQUALE JEAN J, 3/4/2008, \$0., JONES MARVIN, \$682,760.

• 0504144, 494 SATULAH RIDGE RD, NE-SMITH JOSEPH ERIC, 12/28/2007, \$340,000., WISE PATRICIA D WILSON, \$307,480.

• 0504545, 674 CHESTNUT ST, CHESTNUT COTTAGES MUTL OWN ASSN, 1/16/2008, \$0., CAROLINA COURT ASSOCIATION LLC, \$1,541,500.

• 0504607, 244 DIXON DR, SHEARON LINDA, 2/15/2008, \$0., SHEARON JAMES, \$937,280.

• 1425670, 507 MAIN ST, POTTS WILLIAM TERRY, 1/22/2008, \$0, POTTS VELLAMAE, \$2,394,470.

• 1428146, SMALLWOOD AVENUE, CASHIERS LAND TRUST, 1/25/2008, \$0., FRANKLIN ERNEST W III TRUSTEE, \$177,410.

HIGHLANDS TOWNSHIP

• 0504174, 55 BROWNELL RD ON BILLY CABIN RD, METZGER ELINOR S LIVING TRUST, 1/29/2008, \$0., METZGER ELINOR S LIVING TRUST, \$554,250.

• 0547577, 389 MACK WILSON RD, NEELY CARL E LIFE ESTATE, 2/14/2008, \$0., CARL E LIFE ESTATE, \$209,030.

• 0548812, HORSE COVE RD TRACT 5 HORSE COVE ESTATES, ROBERTS JOHN D, 2/21/2008, \$170,000., HORSE COVE ESTATES LLC \$198,290.

• 0549063, 339 MACK WILSON RD, NEELY CARL E LIFE ESTATE, 12/28/2007, \$0., NEELY CARL E LIFE ESTATE, \$78,440.

• 0549064, MACK WILSON RD, NEELY CARL E LIFE ESTATE, 12/28/2007, \$0., CARL E LIFE ESTATE, \$87,120.

• 0549065, 346 MACK WILSON RD, NEELY CARL E LIFE ESTATE, 12/28/2007, \$0., NEELY CARL E LIFE ESTATE, \$141,130.

• 0532957, 31 FALLEN LEAF TRL LOT 6 SHORTOFF BLUFFS DEVELOPMENT, MOORE EDWARD J JR, 1/28/2008, \$360,000., SMITH MARK HOWARD, \$457,920.

• 0550245, 156 MOUNT LORI DR LOT 5 & 6, HILLS RICHARD A JR, 1/4/2008, \$0., HILLS ELLEN J, \$640,400.

• 0550339, 1359 FLAT MOUNTAIN RD, CHAMBERS THOMAS T, 12/31/2007, \$2,232,830., CHAMBERS THOMAS T, \$3,002,750.

• 0550419, 139 WALKINGSTICK RD, WILSON SETH AARON, 1/11/2008, \$0., GURGANUS CLYDE MITCHELL TRUSTEE, \$713,180.

• 0533421, 79 LOST HORSE TRL, CREIGHTON TERESA H, 1/4/2008, \$500., CREIGHTON TERESA H, \$326,000.

• 0550536, CLEAR CREEK RD, JOHNSON RALPH, 2/1/2008, \$0., WILSON SHIRLEY J \$52,670

• 0550537, 1548 CLEAR CREEK RD, JOHNSON SAMUEL J C, 2/1/2008, \$0., WILSON SHIRLEY, \$48,360.

• 0533775, 3814 HORSE COVE RD, MCCALL CAROLYN 3814 HORSECOVE ROAD, 12/19/2007, \$0., MCCALL CAROLYN, \$2,376,250.

• 0501613, 98 WEST CYPRESS LN, GRACE BRIAN, 1/30/2008, \$49,000., WEBB EMMA E, \$79,570.

• 0501778, 70 HOLT RD, PEACOCK W J III, 2/12/2008, \$0., PEACOCK W J III, \$767,940.

• 0501892, BROADVIEW CIR LOT 12 BROADVIEW ACRES, EBERT DAVID J, 1/30/2008, \$165,000., CIMARRON HOMES INC, \$135,990.

• 0502549, 224 N 5TH ST 5TH & PINE ST, TOWN OF HIGHLANDS, 2/19/2008, \$0., SCOTTS CREEK HOLDINGS INC, \$802,100.

• 0502885, 727 WILDWOOD DR, BUTLER DAVID, 3/4/2008, \$200,000., AUSBECK ROBERT, \$384,630.

• 0520606, 80 RIDGE LN LOT 46 WILDWOOD MTN, ROBINSON DANIEL DORREL, 2/4/2008, \$0., ROBINSON DANIEL DORREL, \$626,490.

• 0504656, 315 WILDWOOD DR LOT 18 WILDWOOD MTN, MACKEY SHAUN, 12/28/2007, \$250,000., MACKEY CURT LEE, \$525,470.

• 0542971, 3986 HORSE COVE RD, MCCALL CAROLYN, 12/19/2007, \$0., MCCALL CAROLYN, \$864,430.

• 0424218, DENDY ORCHARD RD GOLD MINE LEASEHOLD, KEENER VIRGIE LIFE ESTATE, 2/1/2008, \$0., KEENER VIRGIE LIFE ESTATE, \$331,950.

• 0528544, 310 FALLS CT HFCC, WEARN MILDRED, 2/19/2008, \$0., WEARN MILDRED, \$1,237,100.

• 0545726, US 64E & 1541 LOT 23 COWEE MTN SUBD, ALLEN DENNIS RONALD, 1/4/2008, \$180,000., JUENGLING CHARLES, \$110,660.

• 0546563, BROADVIEW CIR LOT 5 BLUE VALLEY RIDGE, RAMSAUR JOHN M, 12/21/2007, \$125,000., CIMARRON HOMES INC, \$146,880.

• 0547117, 320 SATULAH FALLS LN OFF US 28 WAHALLAH RD, WHITE JAMES TIMOTHY, 1/15/2008, \$970,000., HOURDEQUIN DAVID R, \$655,880.

• 0547118, SATULAH FALLS LN OFF US 28 WAHALLAH RD, WHITE JAMES TIMOTHY, 1/15/2008, \$970,000., HOURDEQUIN DAVID R, \$99,600.

• 0530131, 142 BONNIE DR LOT 31 (REVISED)MIRRORMONT SUBD, BBJ FAIRWAYS INC, 1/7/2008, \$0., BANTLEY ALBERT G,

\$909,440.

• 0514029, BILLY CABIN RD, MANNING NANCY T, 2/21/2008, \$0., MANNING NANCY T, \$256,500.

• 0514572, 10 WINTERBERRY CT UNIT 2 HFCC, Sisson CATHERINE LEE NORTON TRUSTEE, 12/2007, \$0., NORTON WILLIAM A, \$605,010.

• 0549760, 111 BILLY CABIN RD, WACHOVIA BANK NA TRUSTEE, 2/1/2008, \$880,000., TROPHY PROPERTIES LLC, \$909,290.

• 0532761, 4 LAURELWOOD DR UNIT 4, MCKERNAN JOHN BARRY, 12/27/2007, \$0., MCKERNAN JOHN BARRY, \$715,770.

• 0550348, LYMAN ZACHARY RD, MACON COUNTY, 12/21/2007, \$250,000., POTTS LUCILLE, \$131,590

• 0516287, 1541 HIGHGATE RD LOT13 BENCHMARK SUB, BECKER BRUCE, 2/4/2008, \$0., GRAYROCKS AT HIGHGATE

• 0550397, LAKE OSSEROGA LOT 21, CAROLINA OSSEROGA INC, 1/2/2008, \$0., OSSEROGA HIGHLANDS COMPANY INC, \$200,000.

• 0550399, LAKE OSSEROGA LOT 22, OSSEROGA HIGHLANDS COMPANY INC, 1/2/2008, \$0., OSSEROGA HIGHLANDS COMPANY INC, \$200,000.

• 0516338, 378 CRESCENT TRL LOT 252 CULLASAJA CLUB, KELLEN ROBERT H TRUSTEE, 1/31/2008, \$0., KELLEN ROBERT H, \$1,196,860.

• 0516685, 770 CULLASAJA CLUB DR, ADAMS JANE H TRUSTEE, 2/19/2008, \$0., ADAMS ANDREW, \$1,470,530.

• 0517103, 241 CRESCENT TRL LOT 289 CULLASAJA CLUB, CHAPMAN SHARYN E, 1/15/2008, \$650,000., HOPSON ROBERT L JR, \$725,440.

• 0500142, 9134 BUCK CREEK RD, ALLAN NEIL JR TRUSTEE, 2/5/2008, \$0., CRAWFORD ALLAN NEIL JR TRUSTEE, \$648,710.

• 0517234, RD 1608 LOT 39 RUSTIC FALLS, BROWN MICHELLE, 12/18/2007, \$0., REALTY INVESTMENT SOURCE LLC, \$53,010.

• 0500761, 344 HIDEAWAY TRL LOT 33 COLD SPRINGS, SKILES MIRIAM W, 2/4/2008, \$0., SKILES W VERNON III, \$746,200.

• 0501108, 57 COTSWOLD WAY ON WEBBMONT RD, MILLS MARY JONES, 12/19/2007, \$0., BARNES MACK H JR, \$260,440.

• 0535344, 170 SATULAH FALLS LN OFF US 28, CHANDLER DOROTHY D, 1/4/2008, \$0., CHANDLER-WYANT PROPERTIES LP, \$760,970.

• 0501613, 98 WEST CYPRESS LN OFF 1618, GRACE BRIAN, 1/30/2008, \$49,000., WEBB EMMA E, \$79,570.

• 0501804, 128 COUNTRY CLUB DR LOT Q SEC A WILDCAT CLIFFS, BRYAN SUSAN A TRUSTEE, 1/15/2008, \$310,000., GINN SHANNON R, \$404,590.

• 0501914, 115 OWL GAP LN RD, LUCAS DAVID K TRUSTEE, 12/21/2007, \$0., LUCAS DAVID K TRUSTEE, \$729,300.

• 0502437, 82 HEMLOCK LN LOT 27 SEC B WILDCAT CLIFFS, SINGLETON GEORGE T, 2/15/2008, \$595,000., BLAIR WILLIAM E, \$600,400.

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POLICE, FIRE, & SHERIFF DEPT. LOGS

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the weeks of March 1-14. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

March 1

• At 1:21 p.m., a motorist at N. 4th Street and Carolina Way was cited for speeding 35 mph in a 20 zone.

March 5

• At 8 a.m., a motorist at U.S. 64 east and RiverWalk was cited for driving without a license at the site of an accident.

March 6

• At 8:10 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Wilson and Harris roads.

March 8

• At 7:45 a.m., a motorist at South and N. 5th streets was cited for transporting a child in the car without a seat belt.

• At 11 p.m., Jorge Horacio Conteras Gaona, 23, of Clayton, was arrested for DWI, driving without a license and speeding.

March 10

• At 7:24 p.m., a motorist at Main and N. 4th streets was cited for speeding 35 mph in a 20 zone.

• At 9:35 p.m., a motorist at 2nd and Main streets was cited for speeding 37 mph in a 20 zone.

March 14

• At 8:36 p.m., a motorist on N.C. 106 was cited for speeding 57 mph in a 35 zone.

• During the week officers issued 5 warning tickets and responded to

two alarms.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of March 12-19.

March 12

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Sixth Street. The victim was transported to the hospital.

• The dept. extinguished a small brush fire at U.S. 64 east and Apple Mountain Road.

• The dept. responded to an alarm that was cancelled en route.

March 13

• The Sheriff's department requested the use of the fire & rescue department's drive team to search for a hard-drive that had been thrown in Mirror Lake. The drive was found.

March 14

• The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Hickory Nut Gap Road which was set off by lightning.

March 15

• The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Hickory Nut Gap Road which was set off by lightning.

• The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers to help extinguish a structure fire.

March 18

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

March 19

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on N. 5th Street where someone had fallen.. The victim was transported to the hospital.

The following is the Macon County Sheriff Dept. log entries for the Highlands Township for the week of March 10-20.

March 10

• At 12:30 p.m., Juan Carlos Contereas, 21, of Highlands, was arrested on an outstanding warrant.

March 14

• At 3:30 p.m., John Abner Brown, 30, of Franklin, was arrested for driving without a license.

• At 3:15 p.m., Charles Daryl Cottle, 36, of Scaly Mountain, was arrested for driving without a license.

• At 3:35 p.m., Otavio Espitia Sanabal, 25, of Otto, was arrested for driving without a license.

• At 4 p.m., Philip Eugene Nix, 38, of Clayton, was arrested for DWI and driving without a license.

• At 4 p.m., Vehito Vaencio, 28, of Franklin, was arrested for driving without a license.

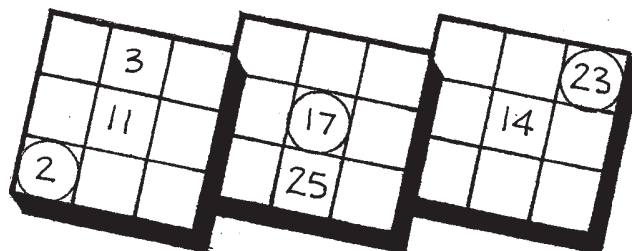
March 15

• At 10:35 p.m., Jesus Valentin Hernandez, 35, of Franklin, was arrested for contempt of court, perjury and court violations.

• At 11:30 p.m., Emiliano Hernandez Chavez, 25, of Highlands, was arrested for simple assault.

• FUN & GAMES •

PseudoCube®



#DZ3D - Level of Difficulty - Moderate

THE SETUP:

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

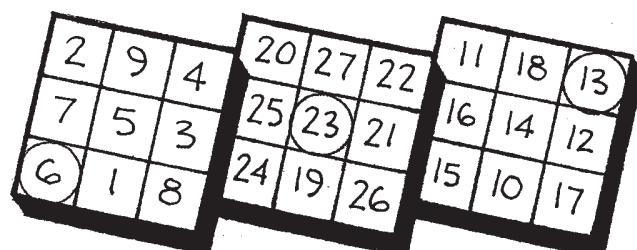
THE CHALLENGE:

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

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

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com

Solution to #BZ2D in March 13 issue



N-Cryptoku®

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

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

Mystery Word

"Convert Energy to Another Form"

Across

1. Creative expression (3)
2. Two of a kind (slang) (4)
3. Edible sea fish (4)
4. Tuesday (3)
5. Hearing organ (3)

Down

6. Trotted (3)
7. Certain (4)
8. Throw (bait) (4)
9. Color (3)
10. Pre-owned (4)

U		N	D		S	A		T
⁶	D			U			S	
	⁷	E		⁸	⁹ R			¹⁰ U
	U		C		E		T	
¹ T		A		² S		U		E
	E			³	U		A	
	⁴	U		N				R
⁵	A		S		C		U	
D		C		R		S		A

Solution to March 6 puzzle

U	T	S	I	G	R	N	H	E
E	G	I	T	H	N	R	U	S
R	N	H	U	E	S	T	G	I
G	I	E	N	R	U	S	T	H
¹ S	² U	³ R	⁴ E	⁵ T	⁶ H	⁷ I	⁸ N	⁹ G
T	H	N	S	I	G	E	R	U
N	S	T	G	U	I	H	E	R
H	E	G	R	S	T	U	I	N
I	R	U	H	N	E	G	S	T

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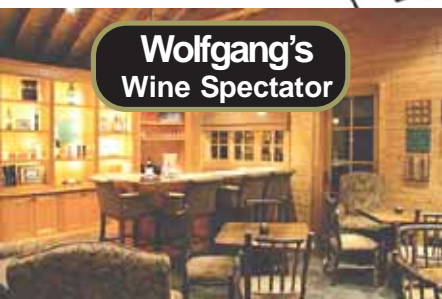
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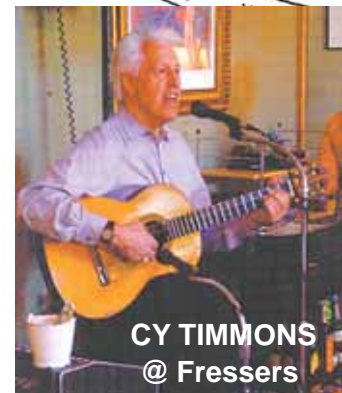
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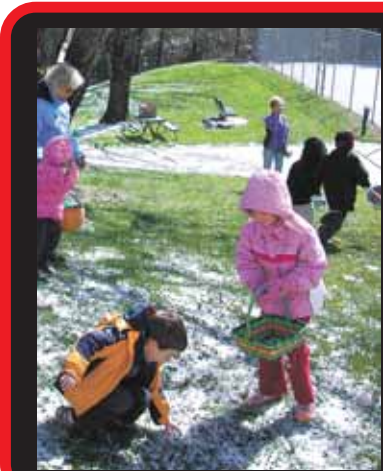
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2 Miles Hwy. 106

Manley's Auto Service
J&J Lawn & Landscaping
<<< 1 Mile Hwy. 28s

2008 Highlands Map



Highlands
Easter Egg
Hunt 11 a.m.
Sat.- Rec Park
For children
ages 0-10



Performing
Arts Center
Community Players

Madison's
Wine Spectator

Live
Music at
The Rib
Shack
Fri. & Sat.
7-10 p.m.

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

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