

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 6, Number 13

PDF Version – www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, March 27, 2008

On-going

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

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

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

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.

• 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.

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

Fri. & Sat., March 28 & 29

• Parallel Lives returns to the Studio on Main at 8 p.m. For reservations please call the ITC box office: 828.342.9197.

Sat.-Sun, March 29-30

• Auditions will be held at Highlands Playhouse from 2-5 p.m. each day. The plays are "On Golden Pond" and "Inherit the Wind." Come with monologue.

Saturday, March 29

• The Satolah, GA volunteer fire department annual benefit, at the firehouse on Route 28. Food \$7 per plate, \$3.50 for children. Bluegrass music starts at 7 p.m.

Monday, March 31

• At the Art League of Highlands meets at 5 p.m. at the Rec Park. Artist David Knott will show and speak about his work. Public is welcome.

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. Call Donna Rhodes at 828.526.4949, 4#.

Thursday-Sunday, April 3-6

• The students of Highlands high school present "Get Bill Shakespeare Off the Stage" at PAC 7:30 p.m. and at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$5 for adults. Students are free.

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
62-42°F	55-35°F	49-38°F

Restaurant parking ordinance amended

One amended ordinance was put to rest; another still hangs in the balance.

During a two-hour landmark joint meeting between the Town and Planning boards, members labored over amending the restaurant parking and outdoor display

of merchandise ordinances.

Restaurant Parking

Before deliberation began, Planning Board member Pat Taylor voiced his confusion over the recent events concerning the amended parking recommendation the Planning Board thought

was being presented to the Town Board.

At the March 19 Town Board meeting, Commissioners Buz Dotson and Hank Ross, members of the newly formed Land Use Committee, presented their own

• See ORDINANCE page 9

Sheriff's Dept. to address risky behavior in D.A.R.E. & Realty 101 courses

By Sally Hanson
Reporter

Despite the snow that fell during the day, March's Board of Education meeting was held as scheduled Monday evening in Highlands.

The big item on the agenda was the a curriculum addition to the D.A.R.E and Realty Check 101 programs concerning risky behaviors.

Superintendent Dan Brigman then introduced Macon County Sheriff Robbie Holland, who was there to seek official school board approval for the county's continuing efforts to raise awareness about risky behaviors such as the "choking game" in area schools.

"The loss of Sarah Beck was a shock to both the school and the community as a whole, and our administration and staff reacted in an extremely effective and efficient manner to expedite a plan to provide support where required," Brigman said. He expressed his appreciation to Holland and the Sheriff's Department for their efforts in improving the awareness level for risky behaviors like the choking game.

Sheriff Holland said that he was looking for the Board of Edu-

• See RISKY page 12

Children flock to annual Easter egg hunt



When given the signal, about 70 children made a mad dash for the nearest Easter egg hidden somewhere in the grass, trees, playground, picnic shelters, tennis and basketball courts at the Rec Park Saturday, March 22. Ages ranged from 0-10 years old with prize eggs available for each age group. It only took about 10 minutes for the children to scour the grounds for hundreds of eggs which were full of surprises.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Building permits point to strong market

Doom and gloom reports of a declining real estate market may not represent the complete story.

At least that's the claim of Dale Akins with The Market Edge Company.

Each quarter, The Market Edge compiles a report of Residential Building Permits and from the looks of the latest one, compared to most counties, Macon County is in good shape.

Akins lumps Macon County in what he calls the "Asheville" region which includes Buncomb, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Polk, Rutherford and Transylvania counties.

His report is manually compiled by researchers who physically travel to 162 code enforcement offices in eight regions in the Southeast U.S. to compile raw

data pertaining to building permits and new subdivision developments.

The Dec. 31, 2007 trend report logged and compared the number of residential building permits issued in the counties from 2003-2007 — not to be confused with residential sales, which would include re-sales or sales of new homes which Realtors say are

• See PERMITS page 11

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

Something to think about

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.

Part 1 ran in the March 20 edition of Highlands' Newspaper

Chapter 10 (cont.)

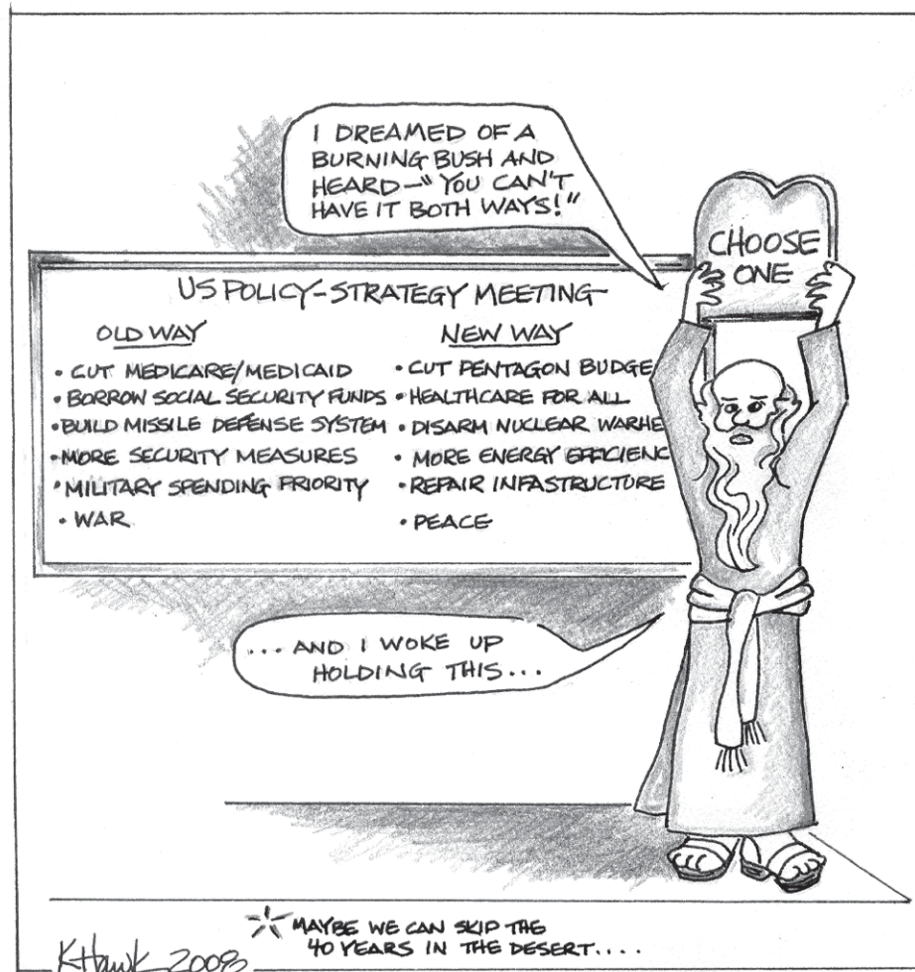
Hell's fire guys had always been fighting for liberty. America fought a war for liberty in 1776. Lots of guys died. And in the end does America have any more liberty than Canada or Australia who didn't fight at all? Maybe so I'm not arguing I'm just asking. Can you look at a guy and say he's an American who fought for his liberty and any body can see he's a very different guy from a Canadian who didn't? No by god you can't and that's that. So maybe a lot of guys with wives and kids died in 1776 when they didn't need to die at all. They're dead now anyway. Sure but that doesn't do any good. A guy can think of being dead a hundred years from now and he doesn't mind it. But to think of being dead tomorrow morning and to be dead forever to be nothing but dust and stink in the earth is that liberty?

They were always fighting for something the bastards and if anyone dared say the hell with fighting it's all the same each war is like the other and nobody gets any good out of it why they hollered coward. If they weren't fighting for liberty they were fighting for independence or democracy or freedom or decency or honor or their native land or something else that didn't mean anything. The war was to make the world safe for democracy for the little countries for everybody. If the war was over now then the world must be all safe for democracy. Was it? And what kind of democracy? And how much? And whose?

Then there was this freedom the little guys were always getting killed for. Was it

•See FORUM page 14

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



• LETTERS •

Common Sense

Dear Editor,

Fact #1 - It is a violation of the North Carolina traffic code for any vehicle to cross over any yellow line into an oncoming lane.

Fact #2 - It is a physical impossibility, regardless of the skill of the driver, for a 53-foot long semi tractor/trailer truck to travel from either Franklin or Highlands on U.S. 64, known as the gorge road, without crossing over the yellow line into oncoming traffic.

Fact #3 - The fact that the State of North Carolina allows and sanctions 53-foot tractor/trailer trucks on the gorge road gives tacit permission for all truckers to cross the yellow line into oncoming traffic, therefore making them exceptions to the code.

Fact #4 - Any accident, injury or death occurring on the gorge road as the result of a 53-foot tractor/trailer truck crossing over the yellow line is the full responsibility and liability of the State of North Carolina.

I shutter to think how many zeros will be at the end of a judgment suit against the State of North Carolina taxpayers after an unsuspecting family goes off the road and into the gorge as the result of an 18-wheeler forcing them off the road.

Hello, is anyone out there listening?
Fred Wooldridge
Highlands

Good Entertainment?

Dear Editor,

Appalled. That is the kindest word I can use to describe my reaction towards Miss Brugger's idea of "good "entertainment," as described in last week's article, "Forbidden Hollywood- Is That a Joke?"

I can agree with one point: gruesome mutilating and senseless violence should not be condoned and labeled as entertainment. However, in total disagreement with Miss Brugger otherwise — frivolous, sexual behavior and infidelity are certainly not better sources of viewing enjoyment.

While our bodies are beautiful creations, they are not meant to be exploited and pawned as a means of profit. And while sex can be beautiful and satisfying within the context for which it was created, it can also be a tool of

•See LETTERS page 22

LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

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

Highlands' Newspaper

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• OBITUARIES •

Jack Adrian (John Jr.)

Jack took off his chef's hat, hung up his apron and stirred his last pot of soup, passing away peacefully at home of cancer, surrounded by his family and loved ones on March 19, 2008.

Jack was born August 11, 1948 to John and Eleanor Adrian in Pittsburg, Pa. Weighing in at 10 lbs 11oz. at birth, he continued to live larger than life. There was always an adventure to be had around every corner.

In 1964, along with his family, he moved to Kingsport, TN and graduated from Dobyns-Bennett High School. In 1967, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served in the nuclear submarine division. He attended C.W. Post, CUNY Queens College, and Georgia State.

For the past 30 yrs, Jack lived in Highlands, N.C. and was a professional chef. One of Jack's earliest culinary endeavors was at Panther Bill's Restaurant on Main Street in Highlands. From there, he cooked at numerous local restaurants and country clubs. Perhaps he was most creative at his own "Jack's" Restaurant at Skyline Lodge until 2005.

Jack was an avid reader and could ad-

amantly defend his position in an argument to the bitter end, whether or not he was right.

He is survived by two sons: Remy of Highlands, and John III (Joanna); and a grandson, John IV of Brooklyn, NY. He also leaves behind his beloved Linda Parrish and her two children, Buddy and Taylor of the home.

In addition to his parents, John and Eleanor, he is survived by two brothers, James (Rita) of Knoxville, TN and Jeff (Cathie) of Murfreesboro, TN; two sisters, Judy (Dan) Camie of Boise, ID, and Jami Adrian-Whitelaw (Richard) of

Hailey, ID; and several nieces and nephews.

A celebration of his life will be held be held March 30 at 2 p.m. at Skyline Lodge for all to attend.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given to The Hudson Library, 554 Main St., Highlands, NC 28741 and Highlands-Cashiers Hospice, P.O. Box 190, Highlands, NC.

We'll miss the kitchen light, Jack, and will keep you in our hearts forever.



Jack Adrian

The bard of Scaly Mountain

By Gary Carden

While I was surfing the internet last week, I stumbled on this: "Jonathan Williams, poet, dead at 79." For a moment, I sat attempting to absorb the fact that tall, courtly Jonathan, was gone. Then, I immediately recalled my most cherished memory of the Bard of Scaly Mountain.

Over a decade ago when I was bemoaning the approach of my 64th birthday, two of my friends asked me what I wanted to celebrate my "natal day." At the time, I was reading "The Ear in Bartram's Tree," and I quipped, "Jonathan Williams." My friends laughed and I went back to my book.

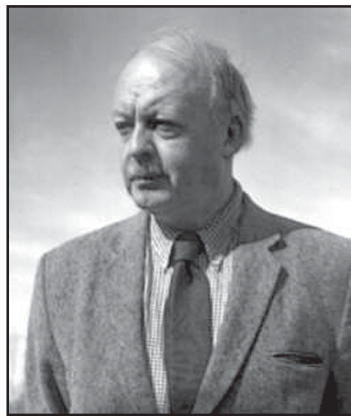
However, a few days later, when I drove to Mirror Lake Road in Highlands for my "birthday dinner," I was ushered into a dining room, lit by candles. There were only two chairs at the table. In a few moments, there was a soft knock at the

door and Jonathan Williams entered. I remember that he was all rumpled tweed and tousled hair and that he smiled and said, "Happy Birthday, Gary." I gawked like a fool and my friends said, "Jonathan can only stay for two hours." Then, they departed, leaving me with a great deal of food, several bottles of wine and Jonathan Williams. And so we talked ... or rather, Jonathan talked and I listened. I asked about Black Mountain College, his friendship with Henry Miller, his awesome folk/outsider art collection (which is now on loan to ASU), his publishing press (the Jargon Society) and his efforts to save

Pasaquan, the fantastic "one-man paradise" of Eddie Owens Martin in Buena Vista, GA.

He told wonderful anecdotes about his trips down the back roads of America to find the multitudes of untrained artists who paint on cardboard, rusty tin and

• See WILLIAMS page 11



Jonathan Williams

Bryson wins first race of the season



Ryan Bryson of Bryson Motorsports celebrated in victory lane Sunday night at Sugar Creek Raceway in Blue Ridge, GA. This was the first race of the season. Thanks to his sponsors: B&S Haulers, Highlands Construction, Sam's Grading, Steve's Grading and Bryson Grading & Trucking.

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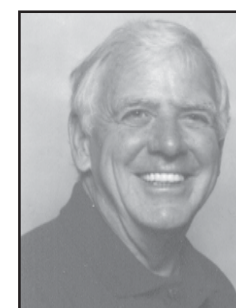
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• LOOKING AT LIFE •

The Demon

Part 3



Fred Wooldridge

•
Feedback
is encouraged!
email:

askfredanything@aol.com

This incredible true story will be told in three parts. Parts one and two can be read on line or obtained by going to the Highlands Newspaper on Oak St. The names, places and some circumstances are changed to protect identities. The events are real. Narcotics Detective Mike Benson, a ten year veteran, has decided to resign because he felt he was possessed by a demon.

Before leaving my home the next morning I called Dr. Gross to set up an appointment for Mike. I was not surprised there would be a two-week wait. I told the secretary the circumstances and the emergency that existed. After sitting on hold for what seemed like an eternity the secretary came back on and said the doctor agreed to see Mike after regular working hours that evening. Relief poured over me. I tried calling Mike at home but kept getting a busy signal.

When I arrived at my office a little before 4 p.m. I found a memo on my desk from the police chief. "Kindly be informed that Detective Michael Benson has tendered his resignation as of this morning. Contact Major Cooper for a replacement." I grabbed the phone and called Mike again. "We're sorry, the number you have dialed has been disconnected."

I sat at my desk, stunned. Then I became frantic. What a waste of a great career over a bunch of stupid dreams. This could not be happening. I called a friend in the personnel department.

"Andy, this is Fred. I want you to put the Benson resignation on ice until you hear from me again."

"Too late, it's a done deal. Besides, I couldn't do that without the chief's permission. He turned in all his stuff and he's headed for New York to visit his dad."

I dropped my phone to its cradle and pondered the course of events. I had failed to save Mike's career. He was determined to quit and I felt I had not done enough. I spent the next hour sitting at my desk trying to convince myself I had done what I could. It wasn't working.

I reached for my "In" basket and lifted a large pile of paperwork onto my desk. There, hidden under several arrest reports, was a plain envelope with my name on it. Inside was a handwritten

note from Mike. It read, "Thanks for making the job fun. You are a good friend and you did what you could to keep me on the job. I am going to work for my dad on his tender in the New York harbor. It's a great job with twice the salary and there are no guns or demons, I hope. I'll keep in touch. Stay safe, ole buddy."

Weeks passed and I never got a call from Mike. Time fades memories and I slowly put the

resignation behind me. Then one afternoon, Dr. Goldstein walked into my office unexpectedly, shut the door and plopped in a chair before speaking.

"I have bad news. Mike Benson was found dead in his dad's tender this morning with a bullet in his head. He apparently committed suicide." I stared at the doc in disbelief as my whole being began to ache with sadness. I couldn't accept what I had just been told. I also realized I was under scrutiny by Goldstein. He was monitoring my behavior and if I wasn't careful, I would be taken off the street and ordered to his couch for sessions.

I tried to act composed. "That's a shame. He was a good man, but troubled. When's the funeral? Are they flying him back here?" I reached for some paperwork on my desk and shuffled it, hoping to act as casual as possible. I didn't realize it was the worst behavior I could have displayed. "Thanks for stopping by Doc. Got anything else you want to say?"

"Yes, I do. I know you were aware of Mike's demon. That's why you called me asking for a Palm Beach psychiatrist. Don't look so surprised; you may think you know everything that's going on around here but you don't."

I dropped my paperwork to the desk. "How did you find out about the demon? I was sworn to secrecy."

Goldstein got up to leave. "I had been seeing Mike for quite some time about this. We were meeting outside the city at his request. Because of the seriousness of this matter, the paperwork was recorded on tape. I know the people in my office gossip." There was a pause when neither of us spoke. He was giving me time to digest what I had been told and then he continued.

"The demon in his dreams was

•See WOOLDRIDGE page 8

• ANOTHER VIEW •

Separating the good from the bad

When I heard about the sermons of Rev. Jeremiah Wright, my first reaction was, "Oh my, the Obama candidacy is dead."

For those who somehow missed it, Senator Obama attended Rev. Wright's church in Chicago for some 20 years. Wright married Barack and Michelle Obama. He baptized their daughters. He was Obama's guide on a spiritual journey to Christianity.

He is also a firebrand preacher who has referred to the "United States of White America" and has suggested "God Damn America" as more appropriate for people of color than "God Bless America." He blames the morass in the Middle East on illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands. He explained the tragedy of 9/11 as a case of chickens coming home to roost.

Senator Obama sat through at least some of the statements and must have been aware of the rest.

How, I wondered along with much of America, could a man who would be President embrace such a man? The revelation seemed to doom his quest for the presidency, and perhaps appropriately so.

With poll numbers plunging, Senator Obama spoke in Philadelphia and discussed race in America and his relationship with Reverend Wright. I read the speech and thought, not so fast. This candidacy may still have life.

The Senator addressed the issues in a candid and eloquent manner. He said that he could no more disown the reverend that he could his white grandmother who helped rear him, despite the fact that she had made racial statements that made him cringe and had told him that the sight of a black man approaching her on the street frightened her. He revealed the good that Rev. Wright's church had done, "God's work on earth," as he expressed it. His church had fed the hungry and sheltered the homeless. It had cared for victims of HIV/AIDS.

Reverend Wright had grown up in Jim Crow America. He had witnessed and continued to observe discrimination, poverty, hunger, unemployment, teenaged pregnancy, drug addiction, and crime. He blamed many of the ills of Black America on



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

White America. He was outraged by injustice. He had spoken his mind. He might have adopted a conciliatory tone, but did not. He railed against injustice for decades. He made outrageous statements in his sermons, some more truthful than we in White America would like to admit.

I don't know if Senator Obama agreed with all, much, or none of the teaching of his preacher. But their relationship reminds me of an important relationship in my life.

Paul Farmer is a physician who has dedicated his life to treating illness in the third world. He has fought disease in Haiti, Mexico, Peru, Siberia, and more recently, several African nations. He has battled poverty, malnutrition, and illiteracy. He has championed the causes of clean water and women's rights. Mal distribution of the earth's bounty makes his blood boil. Paul was my guide on a journey to understanding and loathing injustice.

Paul could probably be described as Socialist, maybe a Communist. At one time, he railed against injustice much as Reverend Wright does.

Today he emphasizes solutions to the problems rather than their roots. Rich white guys don't want to be told that the system which has been so kind to them has harmed millions of others, and are reluctant to open their wallets to anyone who delivers that message. So Paul sounds less like Rev. Wright than he once did.

I don't care about Paul's political leanings because he passionately follows his beliefs. He is completely dedicated to easing suffering. Paul and the Reverend Wright are good men, but they are angry men who hate injustice. My love for Paul transcends political differences. I suspect the same is true of Senator Obama's love for his pastor.

Senator Obama need not and should not disown his preacher. We must keep in mind that he is a friend and spiritual mentor, not a political advisor. Offensive as his views may be, they are irrelevant to Obama's candidacy. Obama's frank discussion of race in America and candid explanation of his complex relationship with Reverend Wright are rare acts of political courage. I applaud his courage, honesty, and loyalty.

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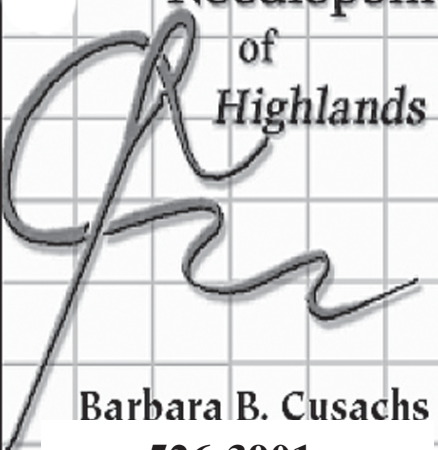
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"Send Lawyers, Guns and Money...."

The title is from a song by Warren Zevon. I'd always heard the line as a telegram from a banana republic in crisis, and that the whole line was, "Send lawyers, guns and money; all Hell has broken loose." Still, this is a column about lawyers that is favorable, and kind.



Michelle Mead & John Armor
michiemead@aol.com
John_Armor@yale.edu

This morning, a lawyer I've known all my life invited me to go to the beginning of the session of the Superior Court in Sylva, the seat of Jackson County. (For those unfamiliar with that town in the Blue Ridge Mountains, many of the late scenes in "My Fellow Americans" with Jack Lemon and James Garner, were filmed there, including the legendary "All-Dorothy Marching Band" and the bathroom toe-tapper, "Macarena" scene.)

Richard wanted to introduce me around to some of his friends and colleagues who'd be gathered at that Court House for the start of the session. While we were there, I visited with about a dozen lawyers, and an equal number of court personnel. And I experienced something I'd almost forgotten, something I very much miss by being a semi-retired lawyer.

Sylva is a small town. Most of the lawyers who handle cases in that court know each other well. They've been up against each other before, and know they will be up against each other many times in the future if they stay in practice in this small community. As a result, the lawyers in that courtroom this morning were unfailingly polite and soft-spoken with each other and with the judge.

Do I suggest in any way that they fight less for the side they represent in a case than in the "big city" courtrooms? Not in the least. I watched a lawyer this morning give a one-hour argument which he will almost certainly lose, trying to get summary judgment for the defendant "women's shelter" where an angry husband got in, dragged his wife out, and shot her dead on the front lawn in front of shelter personnel, and where her son found her body minutes later.

I know exactly why the lawyer was fighting for summary judgment for the defense. If that case goes to the jury, they will vote to drive up a money truck and throw money out the back with a pitchfork, to pay the damages on the horrendous facts of that case.

But this is not about who will, or should, win any of the issues presented in court this morning. Instead, it is about the highly civil way that lawyers behave in a small town, with a small trial bar who are always encountering each other. And that basic decency grabbed hold of the visiting lawyers who were

there, some from elsewhere in North Carolina, others from out of state.

The visiting lawyers were probably experienced in trial work like I remember from the courtrooms of Baltimore City, a quarter century ago. There I found many lawyers who would cheerfully cut the throats of opposing counsel if it would give them a slight advantage in the pending case. I'm being metaphorical here, by a slight margin. However, the Gordon Gekko line from "Wall Street" does come to mind, when he said of an opponent, "I want him bleeding from all orifices."

Yes, there were some lawyers whose word was good in the Baltimore courts. There were a few lawyers who, even as opponents in a case, could be relied upon to keep a commitment, and do something they said they would do. But that was not the norm.

This morning in Sylva, that was not only the norm, it was universal. And it made me nostalgic, just a bit, for the profession I have largely set aside and will not return to. But it is not the lawyers, but their environment, that is different here.

In a small town, all people in all professions and lines of work tend to be more personal, more courteous, in their dealings with others. There are exceptions, of course. But in a small environment, the Golden Rule becomes a long term survival technique. You do unto others as you would have them do unto you, because you know that they will almost certainly get the opportunity to do unto you.

There could be no better proof that the Golden Rule actually works as a mode of conduct than that it works among a random selection of actual lawyers. It's like training pet bulls to be lap dogs. I saw it succeed, this very day.

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

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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

This winter I re-read *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, by D. H. Lawrence. It is widely known as a "dirty" book and I think many people suppose that's all it is, but it is actually a manifesto against capitalism and the negative effects modern industrialism has on humanity. "The England of today [the 1920s]...was producing a new race of mankind, over-conscious in the money and social and political life; on the spontaneous, intuitive side dead — but dead! Half-corpses all of them: but with a terrible insistent consciousness in the other half." The lovers of the title are the only two people who are alive, and the sexuality is just what natural sex looks like between people who are alive, nothing more.

The novel is set just after World War I and as I read it this time I realized that the first part of the book makes a very strong anti-war statement. The people were emotionally dead for another reason and in another way: the war had wounded their souls.

Wounded in the Soul

"An inward dread, an emptiness, an indifference to everything gradually spread in Connie's [Lady Chatterley] soul...So it seemed to her everywhere...It was the bruise of the war that had been in abeyance, slowly rising to the surface and creating the great ache of unrest, and stupor of discontent. The bruise was deep, deep, deep...the bruise of the false inhuman war. It would take many years for the living blood of the generations to dissolve the vast black clot of bruised blood, deep inside their souls and bodies...All the great words, it seemed to Connie, were cancelled for her generation: love, joy, happiness, home, mother, father, husband, all these great dynamic words were half dead now, and dying from day



Katie Brugger
k-brugger@hotmail.com

to day."

While I was reading the novel I watched a movie set in Sarajevo after the Balkan wars of the 1990s that had the same message (*Grbavica: The Land of My Dreams*). The adults were walking zombies, going through the motions of life but dead inside. The younger generation was trying to be alive, but they were being raised by people who were emotionally dead and they were starved for love and connection.

In a recent *New Yorker* I noticed an article ("Ghost Writer," by Kennedy Fraser) about British novelist Pat Barker: Ms. Barker was brought up by her grandmother and her grandmother's second husband, who had been bayoneted in WWI. "He was the

forerunner: the first of all the silenced, traumatized, physically damaged veterans — the living specters — who would inspire the 'Regeneration' trilogy, the masterpiece that Pat Barker was to produce in the 1990s (It won her the Booker Prize and an international reputation.)."

The first novel in the trilogy, titled *Regeneration*, is based on the real-life experiences of British army officers being treated for shell shock during World War I. I have not read any books by Barker but this article made me want to read the trilogy (books available at the Macon or Hudson Library).

On the fifth anniversary of the Iraq war I watched a film that a friend had recommended. When I put the DVD in the player I had no idea what the film was about (my favorite way to watch a film), and it turned out to be a very appropriate choice for the occasion. "The Ground Truth" by Patricia Foulkrod (2006) is a

• See BRUGGER page 26

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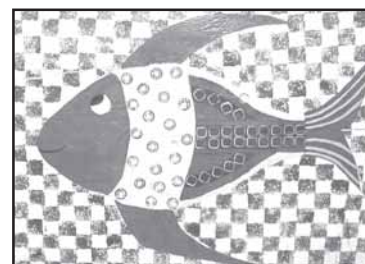
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• FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

The week that was

I hope everyone had a happy Easter and you found all the eggs you were looking for! Holy Week for Christians is always a very special time on our calendar as we honor the incarnation, remember the crucifixion and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. And in an ecumenical way Christians from many different congregations in Highlands remembered together the final walk of Jesus to his death on the cross in the re-enactment of the Stations of the Cross, the Via Dolorosa, the Way of Sorrow, on Good Friday. In this same spirit of ecumenicalism, on Easter Sunday many of us went together to the Sunrise service on the grounds of the Nature Museum where beloved retired minister, Hunter Coleman, gave an inspiring homily and all churches and pastors participated in this very special service. It is so great to see the ecumenical community come together in celebration, exhilaration and remembrance.

Next month our Jewish neighbors will celebrate their big Spring event together, the Passover. This event to the Jews is as special as Easter to Christians, and it also holds special meaning to Christians everywhere. For as Christians and Jews we have a common heritage, and we all must work together for the common good.

A new day in relationship between the towns in Macon County and the County Board of Commissioners has arrived. Our meeting last Tuesday night with Franklin, Highlands and Macon county leadership at The Boiler Room in Franklin brought about new understanding in an atmosphere of cooperation and comradery. In January I had requested at the County meeting that we needed to begin to meet on a quarterly basis as had been directed in a 1988 signed statement of cooperation, and all agreed that this should be re-instituted. Common concerns for the good of our county can be discussed and debated. Everyone left that meeting Tuesday with a positive attitude about the future in our relationships. We indeed do live in a very special county and we must work together for the benefit of all.

The new additions to the Hudson Library presented to the Town Board last Wednesday night brought an air of excitement to the meeting. With the Bascom-Louise Art Gallery leaving the building to their new beautiful facility on Oak Street, the Library has room for expansion into that area along with



Mayor Don Mullen

additions to the present building. They will be keeping up with the growth of Highlands and offering more services to the people of our town along with having more room for great books. We all applaud the good work of the board of directions of the library in continuing to bring good service to the Highlands plateau.

Also on last Wednesday Mountain Environmental Services made their official presentation to the Town Board regarding the cost of removing the silt from the Big Creek arm of Lake Sequoyah. It will cost us around \$2,000,000 and we will be putting the silt in the Rich Gap Road land fill which closes this July. First, however, we must get the funding for this. Our recent visit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was positive and request for funding has been sent to Congressman Heath Shuler. If that fails, folks, taxes in Highlands will be going up. We simply cannot wait any longer to protect our water supply.

Once again a great performance is scheduled at the Studio on Main by the Instant Theater Company. Parallel Lives, with an outstanding cast, will be performed on March 28- 29. These folks always do a great job. I hope many of you can get out to see this performance.

... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

himself. Mike has wanted to kill himself for years so he invented the demon as an excuse to get it done. He was running from himself. I couldn't save him, you couldn't save him; no one could save him. Unbelievable as this may sound, it was not job related. Are you aware two members of his family also committed suicide?" I was stunned.

Dr. Goldstein walked to my office door as I continued to digest what I had been told. Keeping his back to me he said, "Drop by tomorrow around four and we'll talk about this more."

"Come on Doc, I don't need counseling. I'm just surprised and I certainly don't need to be shrunk." He turned the corner and disappeared. From just outside my door I heard him say, "Four o'clock. Don't be late."

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

... ORDINANCE continued from page 1

scenario to the Town Board instead of the Planning Board's recommendation.

"I'm concerned with communication between the two boards," said Taylor. "We thought our recommendation was going to be presented and instead the Land Use Committee came up with their proposal in the interim, so I'm confused as to who is to recommend what to the Town Board."

Commissioner Ross said he too was surprised only one recommendation was put forth at the last Town Board meeting. "But in any case, we meant our suggestion to only be a stop-gap measure until the town had time to really study the entire parking scenario."

The Planning Board had suggested allowing the use of public parking spaces near restaurants to satisfy the required seat-to-parking space ratio.

In Commissioners Dotson and Ross's scenario only restaurants with public parking contiguous to the restaurant property would be able to use public spaces which meant only two restaurants – Fireside and Wild Thyme — could use public parking spaces.

"I thought this gave Wild Thyme some relief and of course Fireside doesn't need any relief," said Dotson.

For Wild Thyme, the additional five public parking spaces contiguous to the property would mean 15 seats, not enough for them to stay in business, they said.

Planning Board member Linda Clark, who vocally opposed the Land Use Committee's scenario presented last week, said the Planning Board's version encouraged restaurant business instead of deterring it.

"What kind of businesses do we want to attract?" she asked. "We should want additional restaurants and we should want to help those in trouble."

Planning Board Chairman Griffin Bell thought perhaps the boards were rushing judgment on the restaurant parking regulations "just to help one restaurant" and suggested evoking a moratorium on parking requirements until a complete parking study was done. But the boards couldn't agree due to the possibility of a perceived "vested" interest being established in the interim.

Planning Director Joe Cooley agreed the town's entire parking ordinance should be reviewed after a comprehensive traffic flow and parking study is completed but said that could take 18-24 months.

"The basic idea behind amending the restaurant parking ordinance was to allow the use of public parking to offer some relief while still requiring as much onsite parking as is reasonable," he said.

All along he has suggested making use of unused public parking spaces within a certain number of feet of an establishment and capping the number of public spaces to satisfy restaurant parking requirements rather than increasing impervious surfaces in town.

After about an hour of deliberation, the Town Board voted to amend the restaurant parking ordinance to allow both dual-use

parking — where two establishments share parking lots on off hours, capped at a maximum of 12 spots — and the use of public parking spaces within 300 feet also capped at 12 spots, to satisfy seat-to-parking ratios.

"I don't want to create more parking but instead want to shift people to another area," said Commissioner Amy Patterson. "Our goals are to keep more impervious areas from being created and to keep businesses in the downtown area."

She suggested having restaurant owners use dual parking to satisfy the necessary employee parking part of the equation and to use public parking spaces for customers. "This way you can use the parking close to the restaurant for clients," she said.

At an April 16 public hearing, the following ordinance will be presented:

Section 305.2 On-Street Parking Spaces Used for Additional Restaurant Seating in B-2 and B-3 Zoning Districts (A). Legal on-street parking spaces which are within 300 feet, as defined by this section, of the parcel on which a restaurant is located may be used to increase the amount of seating in the restaurant. The maximum amount of public on-street parking which may be used for such purpose is limited to a maximum of twelve (12) parking spaces. A maximum of three (3) additional seats will be allowed for every one (1) public on-street parking space adjacent to the restaurant.

And,

Section 305.2 Dual-Use Parking Spaces Used for Additional Restaurant Seating in B-2 and B-3 Zoning Districts (A). Dual-use parking shall mean parking spaces that are shared by a restaurant and another existing use(s), on the same or two sites, to allow an increase in the amount of seating in the restaurant located in either the B-2 or B-3 zoning district, provided that the uses of the sites will not overlap in hours of operation or in demand for shared spaces. A conforming use may lease to another existing conforming use the former's required or supplemental on-site parking spaces for use by the patron's or employees of the latter. All dual-use parking shall be in accordance with the following: The amount of dual-use parking which may be used for such purpose is limited to a maximum of twelve (12) parking spaces; A maximum of three (3) additional seats will be allowed for every one (1) dual-use parking space utilized; Applications shall meet all provisions of this section and require administrative approval from the Planning Director.

Outdoor Display of Merchandise

The display of merchandise outside stores is still not allowed in the B1-B4 zoning districts, but at Monday's meeting the Town Board agreed to exempt stores in the B5-ETJ from the ordinance on the books.

Though shop owners in the ETJ got a reprieve, the issue still plagues other businesses in town.

Back in January, the Town Board dis-

• See ORDINANCE page 17

The Williams donate \$5,000 to PAC



Angela Williams presents a \$5,000 check from the A.L. Williams Foundation to president of the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center, Elaine Whitehurst. "We could never have made the addition to the facility had it not been for donations from people like Art and Angela Williams," said Whitehurst.

ITC presents HCP at the Studio on Main in Highlands

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• COACH'S CORNER •

Tournament Thoughts -- Quick and Dirty Edition

No lies here --I spent the entire first round of March Madness watching from the comfort of my bed...that's the good news. The bad news is that I was incapacitated due to a nasty round of strep throat and sinus crud, so my thoughts from this weekend may or may not be incoherent. (As if they would be coherent to begin with).

It turns out that Thursday night I was so delirious that I was hallucinating. I thought I saw Belmont leading Duke with 20 seconds left to play in the game...but it was all just a dream...right? Apparently not, because Duke fizzled out against West Virginia two days later and once again failed to live up to their seed. That's three years and counting now that the Blue Devils have been "fatigued" at the end of a season. Sounds like it's time for a new

strategy, right Coach K? Reason number one why I am a genius: Davidson! How about them Wildcats, led by Stephen Curry's incredible two-game tournament performance. I give Davidson a puncher's chance against Wisconsin as well, provided that Curry can heat up north of the Mason-Dixon line.

Reason's number 197, 198, 199 why I am an idiot: Drake, Pittsburgh and Georgia -- all gone after the first weekend. I can cut the Drake some slack, after all, they erased a huge deficit and were poised to win in overtime



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

before being done in by Ty Rodgers' 30 footer. Pittsburgh and Georgia...meh...you are dead to me.

All four number one seeds survived the weekend. Kansas and UNC dominated their opponents. Memphis and UCLA struggled a bit (with UCLA getting yet ANOTHER gift from the officials at the end of their game with Texas

A&M-whatever Ben Howland is paying...it must be good) but still survived. What does this tell us? Not much --especially when you consider that we are down to the final sixteen teams. From this point on, anyone can

beat anyone-and I wouldn't be surprised to see another crazy weekend (albeit hopefully from a relatively healthy state rather than my deathbed).

Players to watch this weekend Tyrone Brazelton-Western Kentucky While I put Courtney Lee in this space last week, it was the dynamite PG that stole the show for the Hilltoppers in the first two rounds. Look for a tremendous battle between Brazelton and speedy Darren Collison from UCLA in the Sweet 16. Whoever comes out on top between Brazelton and Collison will be the one playing in the Elite Eight.

Kyle Weaver -- Washington State Most east coast folks don't know about Weaver, who at 6'6" is a NBA wing waiting to happen for the

•See COACH'S CORNER page 12

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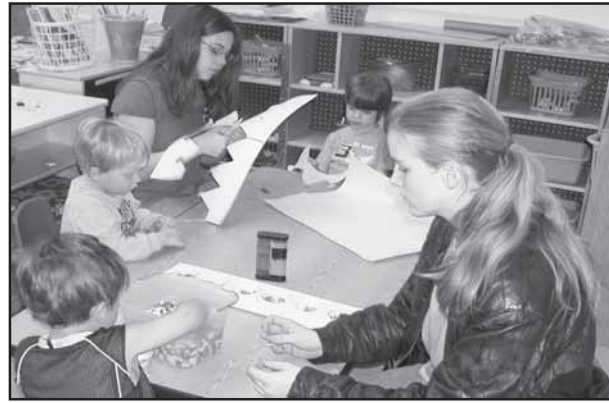
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The Girls' Clubhouse helps out at the HCCDC



On a dreary rainy Friday, when the children and teachers at the Highlands Community Child Development Center were climbing the walls, members of The Girls' Clubhouse arrived to help with arts & craft projects. Some girls helped the children complete a crown project and others help



them with a two-pattern beaded bracelet project. Pictured are Kim Machuca, Gabrielle Tilson, Autumn Chastain and Kristen Hedden.

... WILLIAMS from page 3

masonite, people who whittle, carve or make whirly-gigs - all compelled to create a personal vision that Jonathan found as deeply moving as a Degas or a Cezanne. Jonathan also loved baseball and the recipes in "White Trash Cooking" (published by Jargon Press). He was a discerning collector of blues recordings and the works of unknown photographers, such as Ralph Mealyard.

During our conversation, I noticed that Jonathan had a small notebook in his vest pocket, and that he occasionally made notes in it. When I asked about it, he said that he collected things other people said, and that he liked my comment about falling in love with the folksinger, Hedy West because "she had hairy legs." Of course, I knew that he sometimes converted a chance remark that he had heard in a barber shop or a garage ("Your points is blue and your timing is off a week from Thursday.") Several years after our conversation, I heard Jonathan read his poems in Asheville and was flattered to find a note that I had once written him transformed into a poem. As best as I remember, it went something like this:

Report from Gary Carden at the Coffee Shop in Sylva.

A friend approached while I sat reading.

"What you reading, Gary?"

"Jonathan Williams," I responded, holding up the book.

"Oh, that funny feller."

"No, you're thinking about Winters."

"Damn straight. It was down to 20 last night."

After that night on Mirror Lake Road, we maintained an uncertain correspondence. Jonathan seemed resigned to both his own obscurity and the decline of all that was fine and good in America. He despised most modern poetry and felt that theatre had died with Tennessee Williams. Although he continued to publish his own poetry, he seemed to devote the majority of his efforts to calling attention to the works of others. Occasionally, he would venture out for a reading and he often acted as a commentator for exhibits of his folk art collection. As for the recent popularity of folk art, he noted that the field had been taken over by money-grubbing opportunists and fakes. However, each time he found himself making grim observations about a world where bad food and deranged politicians held sway (Jesse Helms seemed to epitomize the worst in Southern culture!), Jonathan would suddenly change the subject, and retreating behind his shield of humor, laugh, quote a bit of doggerel and sing a song. As many of his later works attest, he was fond of addressing his dead friends,

saying things like, "If there is a flight out of the Elysium Fields tonight, old friend, I'll pick you up at the airport."

Over the years, I have often searched for a fitting icon or symbol for Jonathan Williams. Aside from the undeniable merits of his poetry, his greatest gift was his amazing knack for perceiving talent in others. Whether it was Edgar Tolson, the carver in Compton, KY; Vollis Simpson and his wind machines in Lucama, N.C. or the artist, James Harold Jennings down in Stokes County, Jonathan always saw what the rest of us missed. That includes the art critics who often made belated acknowledgements of Jonathan's unerring judgment. Finally, I can pick my icon. Jonathan is a magpie!

I have watched a magpie stalking through a landfill and I'm thinking of his discerning eye. In the midst of all that plastic and Styrofoam, he will halt, peer into the debris and extract something ... a colored stone, a bauble or an earring. Then, taking flight, he will carry his discovery home to his nest where he will give it a choice setting, a niche that displays its merits. Jonathan did that. He waded through the wreckage of our culture, indifferent to the gaudy fakes. Yet, he sometimes saw it (the real thing!) glinting down there under the debris, and when he saw it he lifted it up and said, "Look what I have found."

AVE, to the Bard of Scaly Mountain.

... PERMITS from page 1

down nationwide.

"The official national sales numbers are skewed because deed transfers, which are the only true measurement of sales, are not compiled on a regional, much less a national basis," said Akins. "Multiple Listing Service (MLS), which is a voluntary system, is inconsistent at best. I don't mean there is a problem with real estate agents inputting bad information. This is a not a criticism of agents. I mean the system itself is not accurate for tracking new construction."

He said this is especially true in smaller markets like Macon County.

"The buying base is local and local buyers are less likely to need a real estate agent to help them figure out what housing product is available at the right price and in the right location for their needs. Compared to a person moving in from out of town who needs a quick education in 2-3 days of house shopping," he said. "Also, the builders are local and are more likely to depend on referrals and word of mouth or having a great location to sell."

For 2006-2007, the issuance of residential building per-

• See PERMITS page 16

Macon County School Board tidbits

At Monday's School Board meeting held in Highlands, the Board approved Principal Brian Jetter's requests for some fundraisers for Highlands School and three Kids' Night Outs to be held by the Highlands Middle School Girls' Basketball team on April 4, May 2, and May 15 of this year.

Jeff King also sought the Board's approval for a project called World Changers.

The program seeks to mobilize high school students and adults to go out into the community to do rehabilitation work on homes. "We work with the county housing agency and local churches to help folks in their homes," King said. The program will take place during the summer of 2009 and it involves church groups from all over the United States.

"One year we saved residents over \$70,000, and there is a huge need for these students. We look forward to a partnership as we move forward and help those in need," King said.

Board member Tommy Baldwin added that he has worked right along with the kids and they have helped older people in our community. "I have seen the tears in their eyes when the kids leave just for what they've done to their homes," he said.

Typically, World Changer crews set up camp in Macon County schools near by.

Paula Ledford, with administration, brought the short-term need for speech pathologists to the Board's attention.

Through an exceptional children's contract, one part-time speech pathologist has been hired due to the temporary loss of two employees to maternity leave, and Ledford said that another part-time pathologist could also be used for the remainder of the school year.

The resignation of Highlands School middle school teacher Sara Mayer was accepted as of July 1, 2008.

Brigman mentioned that the Board will meet with County Commissioners on April 3rd to discuss budget concerns. The next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be April 28, 2008.

• For more school board stories see page 12.

• TOWN BOARD AGENDA •

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners is scheduled for 7 p.m., April 2, in the conference room of the Town Hall. The agenda:

- I. Call to order.
- II. Approve agenda.
- III. Approve minutes of March 19 Special Board Meeting, March 19 Regular Board Meeting, and March 24 Special Board Meeting.
- IV. Public Comment Period.
- V. Reports.
- VI. Old Business. None.
- VII. New Business.
 1. S. B. Associates Wastewater Collection System.
 2. Final Subdivision Plat - Satulah Village South.
 3. Preliminary & Final Subdivision Plat - Cottages at Hardscrabble.
 4. Closed Session pursuant to G.S. §143-318.11(A)(6) to discuss personnel matters.
- VIII. Adjourn.

Writing winners acknowledged at BOE meeting



At Monday night's School Board meeting held in Highlands, students Rachael Billingsley, Kylie Hunter, Ashleigh Tallent, Tatiana Schmitt, Colin Weller, and Cara Hedden were presented awards for winning the Young Authors Contest. Not pictured is Michelle Lane, Highlands School middle school teacher, who also won for her writing submission. Photo by Sally Hanson



Ninth graders, Becca Johnson and Austin Vinson presented their winning Science Fair projects to the Macon County School Board at Monday night's meeting. Photo by Jim Lewicki

Science Fair winners showcased

By Sally Hanson
Reporter

Two Highlands School students presented their science projects at the March School Board meeting held in Highlands Monday night.

Teacher Stephanie Smathers introduced Becca Johnson and Austin Vinson, and they said a few words about what their projects were about and what they learned.

"The Science Fair gives students the opportunity to compete for prizes and recognition at the local and the state level," Smathers said.

Becca Johnson's project involved hatching eggs in an incubator. Johnson said that she put 18 eggs in the incubator and

wanted to find out if "candling" them affected the fertility rate. The eggs took 22 days to hatch, and a total of eight eggs hatched overall: four that were candled and four that were not. "I learned that Mother Nature does it better," Johnson said.

Austin Vinson's project investigated the effects of different substances on teeth. "My kindergarten teacher taught us that eggshells have the same strength as teeth," Vinson said. He placed eggs in four different solutions and observed how they were affected by the different substances. "I used water, sugar water, ginger ale and vinegar," Vinson said. He found out that the more acidic the solution is, the faster the egg, or teeth, will decay.

... RISKY continued from page 1

cation's approval to add a presentation on risky behavior to what students in Macon County Schools are already being taught in programs like the D.A.R.E. Program and the Reality Check 101 Program.

Holland said that the length of the presentation is about 45 minutes, and that Macon County has partnered with Jackson County to create a presentation that is child friendly. "We need to educate our kids, because if we don't their friends will," Holland said.

Holland ran through the presentation that had been previously seen at the March 13 Highlands PTO meeting and also at the March 17 Risky Behaviors presentation at the Fine Arts Center at Franklin High School. "We should have taken notice five months ago, but we didn't," he said in reference to the death of Jackson County student Connor Galloway in October of last year.

Due to a concurrent meeting at Brevard High School, Connor's parents Coach Dale and Michelle Galloway couldn't be at the school board meeting. "They have made it their personal thing to get information about the choking game into every school in the state," Holland said. "It's typically happening at school, in locker rooms, bathrooms and on the playground," Holland said.

The sheriff said that he would allow two or three of his officers to go into area schools to present the program about risky behaviors to students if approved by the school board. He said within a few days of Sarah Beck's death the D.A.R.E. Program had already added information about the choking game. However, this program is only taught to fifth graders.

When asked by Board of Education member Susie McCoy about what age groups were being targeted by the presentation about the choking game, Holland said "It's my opinion that it shouldn't be an age matter," and Board of Education member Roberta Swank said that younger kids have older brothers and sisters that could be talking about it as well.

Board of Education Chairman Donnie Edwards suggested that the information be added to the PE/health classes for the students that are to be targeted. It was discussed whether the topic could be included for fourth graders, which was received with mixed emotions. Holland said "I'm 41 years old, and when I was in fifth grade I could name kids who did it, except we called it "pass out." He said that his classmates learned it from older kids. "I wouldn't do it because it gave you headaches, and I had migraines as a kid, but I knew kids who did it," Holland said.

Franklin High School principal Gary Shields suggested that alternate ways be found to deliver the message to younger kids without shocking them. He mentioned puppet shows that had been conducted in the past by Macon Program for Progress regarding inappropriate touching.

Edwards said that the Board of Educa-

tion could approve the presentation as it stood for students in fifth grade and older, and suggested someone be appointed to find the best way to present the information to younger students.

Swank said "I can't imagine any parent not wanting their kids to have this information," but Edwards said "We can't show pictures of dead people to fourth graders." Board of Education member Tommy Baldwin seemed to disagree. "Have you seen the video games that these kids play, or the movies their parents take them to? Kids are much tougher and have seen much more than we think they have," he said.

Holland suggested that the School Resource Officers be included in the decisions on how to present the information to younger children so they would be better prepared when the time came.

McCoy made a motion to accept the presentation for students in fifth grade and older, and then to explore ways to present the information to children in grades K-4.

She suggested a PTO meeting could be held for parents who were interested in having their younger children learn about the dangers of risky behaviors like the choking game, so the parents could be educated as well. The motion was seconded by Swank.

Swank also said "If any parent or taxpayer has concerns, they can always come to Board of Education meetings and make public comments," or contact Board members or the principal of their child's school. "We're here for the children and for education, and parents need to come where their actions can be heard and something can be done about it. If you have a legitimate concern, it's our concern also," she said.

• For more on Risky Behaviors see page 14.

... COACH'S CORNER continued from page 10

Cougars. However, those on the west coast already know about Weaver's game, and the dimension he brings to the slowdown/boring Washington State attack. UNC has a superior talent advantage at every position against the Cougars except for SF-and Weaver is the reason why.

Scottie Reynolds- Villanova
Reynolds is a dominant PG who can control the game from both a scoring perspective as well as getting his teammates involved with dribble penetration. He's going to have to have a monster game for the Wildcats to stay competitive with Kansas.

Connor Atchley - Texas
Atchley is on this list because it will be up to him to match the performance of Stanford's twin towers (Robin and Brook Lopez, or as I like to call them, the Lopi) If Atchley can provide an inside presence for the Longhorns, then I like their chances to get past Stanford.

• CONSERVATIVE POV •

Hey Buddy, what's shakin'?

I hope y'all had a blessed Easter, if you are so disposed. I hope you are.

It's time for my periodic rant on Global Warming, but I'm going to cut it short.

I'm not going to ignore it, just briefly mention a few facts and then get to the heart of the matter. The official thermometers at the U.S. National Climate Data Center show a slight global cooling trend over the period from 1998-2007. That should do it, but it won't, to those whose religion is man-made global warming.

Al Gore says global warming is a planetary emergency. It is difficult how this can be so when record low temperatures are being set all over the world. In 2007, hundreds of people died, not from global warming, but from cold weather hazards.

South America experienced one of its coldest winters in decades. In Buenos Aires, snow fell for the first time since 1918. In Peru, 200 people died from the cold. Crops failed, livestock perished and the Peruvian government declared a state of emergency. Johannesburg had its first significant snowfall in 26 years. Australia experience its coldest June ever.

In January 2007, Southern California had a devastating freeze that destroyed \$1.5 billion worth of produce. In April, a killing freeze destroyed 95% of South Carolina's peach crop and 90% of North Carolina's apple harvest. In December, record cold was recorded on Charlotte, Denver, cities in Minnesota, Pennsylvania,

Ohio and elsewhere in the US. I could go on (China is still digging out of the worst winter in memory) but on to more important matters.

On October 17, 1989, at 5 p.m., at Candlestick Park in San Francisco the opening ceremonies prior to game three of the World Series commenced. Four minutes later, with the world watching on TV, a 6.9 earthquake hit the bay area, shaking Candlestick and everybody in it. Outside the park, rush hour was in session, and the roads were jammed. Roads collapsed on top of others, bridges crumbled, homes were destroyed as viewers gasped. Miraculously, only 67 people died even though thousands were injured and homeless.

Unfortunately, although the death count could have been several times what it was, nearly 3,000 New Yorkers died on Sept. 11, 2001. I don't need to recount the horror of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Again, the world watched as buildings crumbled,



Don Swanson
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people fled and chaos enveloped lower Manhattan. The contiguous 48 had been attacked with success beyond the perpetrators fondest dreams.

In 2004-05, Florida was crisscrossed by killer hurricanes. Practically no area escaped the damaging winds that Charlie, Ivan, Jeanne, Rita, Katrina, Dennis and Wilma brought to the "Sunshine State." Power was lost for weeks; crops were lost for

the season and insurance rates shot up, if available at all. A great deal of disruption was felt by schools, businesses and the population in general. Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, Tampa, Orlando, they all felt the wrath of Mother Nature.

Katrina, of course, was the Mother of all destructive hurricanes. In August, 2005, making landfall near New Orleans, the affects of Katrina breached levees and put 80% of the town and surrounding parishes under water. Thousands died and hundreds of thousands became homeless. The dispersion that followed reduced the population dramatically, and the return of what once were residents has been painfully slow. The damage of the storm has been put at \$80 billion and the costs are still mounting.

Just a few days ago, a tornado ripped through downtown Atlanta, tearing up Centennial Park, the Omni Hotel and other center city landmarks. Loss of life was minimal and damage wasn't great relative to other disasters, but one thing was certain. No one had ever seen a tornado inside the perimeter before.

So what is up with the increasing number of disasters striking the U.S.? All of the events mentioned above involved big cities in a big way. All received extensive television coverage worldwide, and the soft underbelly of America was exposed for all the world to see.

God either allowed or caused these things to happen. Just as he controlled these events, He controls the earth's temperature and man has nothing to do with it.

Global warming has become pseudo-scientific mumbo-jumbo and not worth our concern.

The greatest disaster of all doesn't get any television coverage and very little notice whatsoever. 800,000 or more abortions every year have not escaped God's attention, and having been thrown out of schools, the public square and ignored by many, He appears to have turned His face away from the U.S., the country he inspired, blessed and prospered.

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A basket full of eggs



Charlie Sanborn was one of 60 kids who scoured the Rec Park for Easter eggs on Saturday, March 22. Photo by Kim Lewicki

Young artists visit The Bascom



Linda Steigleder, The Bascom's executive director, lends a boost to a young art appreciator. Visitors to storytelling time at the Hudson Library got to sneak a peek at The Bascom's latest exhibition, showcasing creations by the art center's members. The free exhibition ends today, Thursday, March 27.

Recent deaths alert communities to risk

By Sally Hanson
Reporter

Last week a crowd of a few hundred people convened upon the Fine Arts Center at Franklin High School to attend a program on risky behaviors in children and adolescents.

School Superintendent Dan Brigman opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. "Your presence is a demonstration of your concern for your children and the school system," he said.

Jackson County Sheriff Jimmy Ashe said "Jackson and Macon Counties are bonded together for the same cause and reasons, and there is a great working relationship between our counties."

Connor Galloway of Jackson County died recently of the choking game as did Sarah Beck of Macon County.

Ashe said that there are two important things to be considered concerning risky behaviors: prevention and intervention. "It is our responsibility to step up and make sure our children stay safe, and when they face temptation it is up to us to intervene," he said.

Jackson County School Resource Officer Sgt. Johnny Hollifield then began the prepared presentation about risky behaviors. He started by defining the types of behaviors themselves, which include things like alcohol use, drug use, premarital sex, and games such as the choking game.

The focus of the meeting was to concentrate on providing information about lesser-known behaviors that can be risky to pre-teens and teenagers. The first topic was over-the-counter substances that have the potential to be abused.

These are problematic because cold medicines and cough syrups are readily accessible to children. "I'm sure every home in Macon County has these things in their medicine cabinets," Ashe said. The ingredient that makes kids "high" is called dextromethorphen, or DXM. According to Ashe, it's important to keep an eye on the medications in your home containing DXM, and never to keep more than you think you might need on hand.

Some of the common nicknames for over-the-counter drugs that can produce highs in large doses are "Robo," "Skittles," "Triple C," "Dex," "Vitamin D," and "Tussin." Ashe said that sometimes parents can be alerted of a potential problem early on if they are familiar with the terminology that kids are using to refer to the risky behaviors.

He also explained the concept of the "emo trend," which can be a warning sign of risky behavior in children. "Emo" is short for "emotional," and the term refers to a lifestyle that teens adopt which includes specific types of music and ways of dressing. Some "emo kids" take the concept further and engage in self-cutting

behavior.

Ashe emphasized that it isn't necessarily risky if your child listens to emo bands or dresses in the emo fashion, but parents should be aware that there is the possibility that the child could move on to cutting him or herself. "You need to talk to your kids and let them know how dangerous this can be," he said.

Other drugs that teens can use to induce a high are inhalants such as mark-

OTHER NAMES FOR THE CHOKING GAME:

Airplaning, America Dream Game, Black Out Game, Breath Play, Breathing the Zoo, Bum Rushing, California Black-out, California Choke, California Dreaming, California Headrush, California High, California Knockout, Catching Some Zs, Choking Game, Cloud Nine, Crank, Dream Game, Dreaming Game, Dying game, Fall Out Game, Flat Liner, Flatline Game, Flatliner Game, Funky Chicken, Getting Passed Out, Grandma's Boy, Halloween, High Riser, Hoola Hooping, Hyperventilation Game, Indian Headrush, Knockout Game, Passing Out Game, Pass-out Game, Purple Dragon, Natural High, Redline, Rising Sun, Rocket Ride, Sandboxing, Sleeper Hold, Space Monkey, Speed Dreaming, Suffocation Game, Suffocation Roulette, Teen Choking Game, Tingling Game, Trip to Heaven, Wall-Hit

ers, nitrous oxide, butane, glue, Freon, or computer cleaner. "Anything that puts out a vapor can be used as an inhalant," Ashe said. Important side effects to look for in your child after using these inhalants include dizziness, lightheadedness, headaches, nausea, and a rapid pulse.

The term "dusting" can refer to the use of inhalants, and Ashe said it's important to let kids know that the first time they try an inhalant could be the last time. "Inhalants can kill the first time you use them," he said.

Ashe then moved on to the topic of the choking game. A warning was issued before Ashe played a recording of a 13-year-old boy's frantic call to 911 dispatchers upon finding his twin brother unresponsive as a result of the choking game. "This is real; sometimes we can't sugar-coat the truth," he said.

Silence descended upon the crowd as the emotional conversation was played. After its completion Ashe said "The reason we are here is to prevent this from happening again. We can't let this go on."

He went on to explain that the choking game is anything but a game. It involves cutting off blood supply to the brain via compression of the arteries in the neck, hyperventilating, compressing the chest, or using a belt or rope to nearly hang oneself.

According to Ashe, 75% of children in grades six through ten have either heard of the choking game or have played it themselves. In contrast, only 25% of parents are aware of its existence.

One of the most deceptive things is that the activity is common amongst high achieving and well-adjusted students. "These kids have been told not to drink or to try drugs, but they haven't been told not to do this. We hope after tonight, they will," Ashe said.

Ashe went on to describe what feelings the choking game is supposed to elicit. When the blood flow is initially slowed to the head there is a feeling of lightheadedness, which creates a "high." Then pressure is released to allow blood back in, and this brings on a "rush."

This "game" is not without its risks even if it doesn't prove fatal. Strokes and seizures have been known to occur due to the changes in pressure and blood flow to the brain, and even heart attacks can result. If the teen faints and falls from a considerable height there is also the possibility of physical damage from the fall itself.

"A chemical is released that causes a euphoric feeling, and this is what kids are getting addicted to," Ashe said, "but it is actually the brain cells dying." Extensive brain damage can lead to a permanent vegetative state, according to Ashe.

Signs to look for in your child that could indicate that he or she has been experimenting with the choking game include bloodshot eyes, headaches, marks on the neck, locked doors, objects such as belts tied in knots, and wear marks on closet rods or bed posts.

Ashe concluded his portion of the presentation by directing parents to a website called "games adolescents shouldn't play" at www.gaspinfo.com.

Counselor Patti Tiberi from the Smoky Mountain Center then spoke about why adolescents make decisions the way they do. "The ability of teens to put the brakes on risk taking and think through decisions is not fully developed," she said.

Tiberi said that the adolescent brain develops from the front to the back: and while it was previously thought that most brain development stopped at age 12, it has recently been discovered that our brains continue to mature until around the age of 24.

The first part of the brain to develop in children is the cerebellum, which controls physical coordination and sensory processing. Next is the nucleus accumbens, which governs motivation. After this comes the amygdala, which controls emotions including fear and anger.

"Emotional cues can be easily misread, and kids will assume you are angry and react with an inappropriate response,"

s to risky behaviors in teens

Tiberi said. The last area of the brain to develop in young adults is the prefrontal cortex, which is the main center of judgment. This is why teens do not always possess a sense of good judgment.

"It's not about being dumb or stupid or anything like that," Tiberi said, "The brain is just not there yet and sometimes we will make bad decisions." She emphasized that having support and people to communicate with is especially important for teens who haven't learned the finer points of good judgment and decision-making.

"Adolescents have a propensity towards risky, impulsive behaviors, and they prefer activities with increased excitement that don't require much effort," Tiberi said.

The modern environment doesn't always lend itself to helping teens make the right decisions. "Truthfully, we as a culture have an increased interest in novel stimuli," Tiberi said. Popular culture also exposes adolescents to drugs, drinking and sex much more than it used to.

However, Tiberi said that parents can have more influence on their teenage children than they probably think. "Parents mean more and have more influence than anything: your kids are looking for your approval and attention," she said. This is why it's important to talk to your kids about what they're doing, and to let them know what their boundaries are.

Tiberi also recommended that parents be patient, listen to their teens and avoid making generalizations about them. Staying calm is a good strategy, and it's especially important not to leave gray areas that can be misinterpreted when spelling out expectations for your children. "Be clear about their boundaries, and be direct and specific," Tiberi said.

"It's never too early to be concerned about risk taking-kids are exposed much earlier than you think. An ongoing dialogue is essential, not just a one-time conversation," she said.

Coach Dale Galloway of Smoky Mountain High School then took the stage. Galloway and his wife Michelle lost their 12-year-old son Connor on October 18, 2007 to the choking game, and they are trying to warn other parents by sharing what they have been through over the past five months since Connor's death.

"It was completely unexpected," Galloway said. "It's natural to think that it won't happen to you, but the honest-to-God truth is that it can happen to anyone." He said that Connor had a great capacity for learning and was one of the brightest people Galloway had ever known, but that didn't save his life.

"Communication en masse is what is missing, and we have to find a way to warn all kids," Galloway said. He mentioned how important testing seems to be in ed-

ucation today, but wondered if health education should be the true focus. "The lack of a comprehensive health education didn't kill my child, but the absence of it did nothing to prevent it," Galloway said.

He also touched on the fear that parents could give their children the idea to try risky behaviors simply by talking about them. "If you think about it you'll realize why I'm standing here; your challenge is to converse, to advocate. Don't stick your head in the sand."

Galloway told the audience not to be silent and not to shelter their children and cross their fingers and hope they never try risky behaviors. "You have to be aggressive about the information. I know it's so much easier to have a conversation about hard core drugs because access to them is not easy," he said. However, parents have to protect their children from their own curiosity.

"No matter what role you play, every single one of us has a sphere of influence," Galloway said. He encouraged high school students to tell younger students about the danger of risky behaviors like the choking game. "Younger kids will listen to you."

Galloway pointed at the picture of Connor being projected on the screen, saying "This was our son. He was a good boy. You have our permission to talk about him. He shouldn't have died, but he did." Galloway left the stage to a standing ovation, and there were not many dry eyes in the house.

Rev. Scott Carter of Webster Baptist Church in Jackson County then said that his son was a friend of Connor's. "One of the most important things that young people need to hear is that God made all of us to have value," he said.

Carter also reiterated the fact that parents need to talk to their kids regularly. "It's not worth taking a risk for a temporary high."

Additionally, he emphasized the power of prayer. "People who go through this need to know you're praying for them," Carter said. He also invited everyone to pray for the young people of this generation.

Regina Beck then made a short speech imploring parents to have a talk with their children. "Please talk to your kids and grandkids and explain what this can do," she said. "There were no warning signs, and I didn't know anything about the game."

Galloway said how much the evening had meant to him, seeing the interest and dedication of the people who were there.

At the March 13 Highlands School PTO meeting, parents were given information about the choking game. Five students said they knew someone who had been trying the game.

Girls' Clubhouse sets stage for egg hunt

It took about an hour for nine girls to hide hundreds of eggs and about 10 minutes for the eggs to be found the next day at the town's annual Easter Egg Hunt.



Photo by Kim Lewicki

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Jelly bean contest winners



Highlands School Cafeteria recently held a contest for students to guess how many jellybeans were in a jar. Two students tied for first place with their predictions of 534 jellybeans: Maddie Schandolph and Desiray Schmitt. Second place winner was Valarie Billingsley, and third place winners were Brenna Wilson, Emily Mathis, and Jacob Watson. Students were awarded their prizes in the cafeteria. Pictured with the winners is June Zachary, Food Service Manager for Highlands School.

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... PERMITS continued from pg 11

mits in Macon County was up 4% from 2005-2006. Six of the eight counties in the regions permit issuances were down, actually negative compared to the previous year, except for Henderson County which was up 11.4%.

According to Akins, Macon County issued 362 residential building permits in 2007, 347 in 2006, 337 in 2005, 316 in 2004 and 261 in 2003.

His figures correlate with Macon County Health Department Environmental Services figures released this month concerning septic permits.

"In the past two years, even with the downturn in the real estate market, the number of initial applications received has remained steady due to an increase in subdivision development," said Health Director Jim 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.

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.

Akins said it's dangerous when nay sayers speak in generalities about the country's housing market.

"There is no national housing market," he said. "As reported in the media recently, when Alan Greenspan, the former chief of the Federal Reserve Board, was asked if there was a 'housing bubble' he said, 'Because of the unique local nature of individual housing markets, the possibility that there will be any nationwide decline in housing values is very remote.'"

Akins said the key thing to remember is that housing markets are local.

"I agree with Greenspan and firmly believe that all housing markets are local because housing is driven by jobs and jobs are geographically based," he said. "Also, shelter is fundamental so you can't decide you don't need it and most of all, everyone knows real estate is about location, location, location."

He said it's true that all areas in the country aren't doing well but people shouldn't take problems in Tampa, Miami, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Boston or Baltimore, or even a large portion of the east coast, and say that the housing market has tanked.

"Some areas didn't get flooded with idiot investors that drove up production and prices to a point where the market place simply had too much overpriced inventory. What is interesting about the entire scenario is that some of the financial institutions even modified their products and created "exotic loans" to continue the cycle. At the end of the day, there has to be a fundamental "need" (not demand) for the product for the market to flourish," he said.

Akins said furthermore, most people assume that MLS represents a constant 75%-80% of total sales.

"In actuality, this percentage changes dramatically," he said. "When the market is gaining steam, MLS will report increases in total sales but its percentage of the total will lag behind the actual market. However, when the market turns down, builders will once again fall in love with their Realtors and will get a larger percentage of the pie."

He said when that happens, MLS will likely report an increase in sales at a time when demand is actually declining. But once that inventory is sold, MLS will show decreases in sales that correlate to the actual market.

The Macon County building permit office said they issued 319 single-family residence permits in 2007. But Akins stands by his number of 362.

"There are several permits for "multi unit" buildings (condos) on the Macon County report," he said. "The county will issue one permit for a 5-unit building, for example. We break that down into five permits on our report so the totals are higher, but correct."

An example in Highlands would be Highlands Park complex on Harris Lake, and the condominium complex being constructed across from The Chandler Inn on U.S. 64 east.

The next Market Edge report is due out in April and is available for free.

• BUSINESS NEWS •

Century 21 Mountain Lifestyles names top producers for February

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

In the Cashiers Office, Cathy Garren, broker/owner was named Top Sales and Top Listing Agent for February. She also received the Bronze Producer award for her production in 2007 as well as the Top Listing by Volume award for her office last year.

In the Highlands Office Jerry Hudson was named Top Sales Agent and Sherman Pope was named Top Listing Agent. Jerry Hudson was also recognized as the "Rising Star" in his office for his exemplary character and performance as a relatively new real estate agent last year.

Sherman Pope was awarded the Silver Producer award for his production last year, as well as the Top Sales by Units & Production award for his office.

... ORDINANCE continued from page 9

regarded the Planning Board's recommended ordinance amendment concerning the Display of Outdoor Merchandise for districts B1-B5 and re-instated, with minor changes, the ordinance currently on the books.

Section 114 – It shall be unlawful for any commercial business to display goods, wares or merchandise outside the building in which said business is conducted. The following are exempted: produce, firewood, fertilizers, and garden plants. Such merchandise shall in no way obstruct a public walkway required by the North Carolina State Building Code.

Planning Board member Ricky Bryson opened the discussion as a small business owner and member of the board.

"When this ordinance was put into place in the 1980s it was because there were too many paper boxes on the sidewalks and merchants were rolling clothing racks on the sidewalks blocking the right-of-way." He said that's not the case anymore. "If merchants want to put merchandise on private sidewalks, I don't have a problem with that," he said. "We don't want our town to have a sterile look."

But Commissioner Amy Patterson, who has voiced her dislike of the display of outdoor merchandise for some time, said with or without the merchandise displayed outside, Highlands is far from sterile.

"We have an eclectic mixture of architecture, colors, different size and style of awnings; there's no way Highlands could be called sterile," she said.

For some time Mayor Don Mullen has urged the boards to OK displaying merchandise on private property as long as it doesn't impede pedestrian traffic or cause a safety issue, but a consensus has never been reached.

Bryson said that as the ordinance is now written, he is out of compliance and subject to a fine for displaying lawnmowers outside Highlands Outdoor Tools on U.S. 64 east across from the Highlands Falls Country Club.

Commissioner Patterson said the list of allowed items in the ordinance isn't etched in stone and business owners could come before the town's various boards to see if their items could be added to the list.

But Bryson said requiring someone to go through that process isn't reasonable, especially since spring is here and businesses are cranking up.

Commissioner Dotson asked if some limits would be appropriate. "Anything on private property is a go?" he asked.

Planning Board member Mike Bryson said that people could police themselves. "No one will put something out that's offensive," he said. "They want to make a living. You're nit-picking too much."

As has been the consistently the case, the Town Board remains hung up on the definition of "taste."

"How do you judge good taste?" asked Commissioner Patterson. "Is hanging clothes on a door good taste?" she asked.

Taylor questioned her thought process. "So fertilizer isn't tacky but other stuff is?"

Commissioner Patterson said she is also concerned with what's fair. "The guy next door has private property adjacent to the sidewalk, so he can put stuff out but someone like Kilwin's can't. That's not fair," she said.

But Jerry Moore of Kilwin's said the issue is about property rights.

"If I don't have the property, that's my problem. It's about basic property rights. If it harms me, it shouldn't be the problem of someone else with more property. I say make it wide open and let people use their property."

As he has in the past, Commissioner Larry Rogers tried in vain to amend the ordinance to allow the display on private property.

"These businesses make money to pay taxes to keep this town alive. The property belongs to those who pay taxes on it," he said. "They put merchandise outside so people see it and go in and look at more."

But Commissioner Dotson said displaying merchandise outdoors doesn't guarantee a successful business.

Commissioner Ross, who has often used Asheville and other towns and cities in Western North Carolina as examples, suggested a similar ordinance.

"I looked at 10 different towns and no one has regulations about this except Asheville, which basically allows anything on private property and gives special permits for use of sidewalk space. Why can't we do that?"

He said Asheville's limits concern safety, ADA requirements, sharp objects or edges, noise, live animals and a few other items.

Cooley said whatever the Town Board decides must be fairly clean and simple to enforce. "When you start getting into exceptions, sculpting the ordinance becomes an issue," he said.

But he did say racks of clothing that roll in the wind, or clothes hanging on doorways are really fire code and safety issues and could be addressed from that angle.

Planning Board member Thomas Craig suggested an ordinance that excludes certain items rather than includes specific items as it does now.

In the end, the Town Board sent the Display of Outdoor Merchandise back to the Planning Board and set a public hearing for the amendment they did agree on – that of exempting B5-ETJ from the ordinance requirements.

Commissioner Dotson reasoned that the ETJ was different than in town particularly because there aren't sidewalks and pedestrian traffic.

Though a moratorium wasn't enacted, Mayor Mullen said no business in town will be cited for displaying outdoor merchandise until after a final decision is made on the matter, presumably at the April 16 Town Board meeting.

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 23

the world around you. These actions will bring you peace-of-mind. Calm will permeate your being. You will become more centered. It will bring YOU to the surface. So when you encounter darkness, you will react with who you are, at the core, which is light.

Our actions are contagious. So you have a choice to either bring light or darkness to the world. It can be done simply by taking an inventory of the actions you

spend your time doing. Find ways to let others know who you are, through your actions. You can judge these actions through their fruits. The good fruits of these light-ish actions will be seen as joy, love, kindness, faithfulness, etc. What better Easter present to give to those around you than the gift of yourself. You are God's gift to the world. Let your selfish light shine.

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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

ITC's 'Parallel Lives opens Friday night



Jenny King and Breta Stroud in the *Parallel Lives* vignette "Cabaret". As in last year's production the entire cast of characters will be played by females. The Instant Theatre Company presents the Highlands Community Players production *Parallel Lives II* featuring all new vignettes and the one act play, "Graceland" on Friday and Saturday, March 28 and 29 at The Studio on Main. For reservations please call: 828.342.9197.

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 calls, MWF at 8:30 am @ the Rec Park (downstairs).

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

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

- NA open meeting every Saturday at 7:30 p.m. of the ACC Satellite Group at the Graves Community

Church, 242 Hwy 107 N. in Cashiers. Call 888-764-0365 or go to the website: www.ncmana.org.

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

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

- "The Circle of Life" support group continues at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital at the Jane Woodward room 201, 10 a.m. until noon. Call Barbara Buchanan at 526-1402 or Florence Flanagan at 743-2567.

First Mondays

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

Every Monday

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

Every Tuesday

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

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

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

Every Wednesday

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

- 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 Fel-

lowship 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.

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.

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.

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

- American 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

ITC's 'Ice breaker' opens April 10

Madeleine Davis first worked with the Instant Theatre Company in 2005 in "The Turn of the Screw." Since that time she has appeared in "Sylvia," "Little Entertainments," "Cocktail Hour Theatre," "Carpe Noctum Theatre," "My Secret Weapon," "ITC LIVE!" and the performance piece "The Diaries of Adam and Eve." She has also appeared with the Highlands Community Players, most recently in "Enchanted April." In Asheville she has made appearances with the Montford Park Players in "Henry IV, parts 1 and 2," "The Tempest," and "She Stoops to Conquer," and with Artists Resource Center in "Nuts." Madeleine holds an M.F.A. in Theatre from the University of Alabama and recently completed intensive training in Long Form Improvisation with Jillian Burfete of Second City. She is the in-coming Artistic Director of the ITC.



Madeleine Davis as she appears in the role of Sonia Milan in *The Ice-Breaker* by David Rambo.

was also part of a National New Play Network's Continued Life Project and was performed as a world premiere at The Magic Theatre in San Francisco, California. David Rambo is considered to be an up and coming talent on the regional circuit and "The Ice-Breaker" was a presentation of the Alfred P.

Sloan Foundation Science and Technology Initiative. The plot of the play centers around Sonia, a Ph.D. candidate, and a disgraced genius, Dr. Lawrence Blanchard (played by David Milford), who is now living a lonely life in the American Southwest desert. Dr. Blanchard was a pioneer in polar climate studies, working in Greenland and Antarctica for many years studying the gases trapped within layers of prehistoric ice. He is the victim of political backstabbing and has retreated from the scientific community.

The Instant Theatre Company is proud to be presenting the North Carolina premiere of this fascinating play. "The Ice-Breaker" opens at the Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main on Thursday, April 10 and runs April 11-12, 17-19. All performances are at 8 p.m. For reservations call the box office at 828-342-9197. The Studio on Main is located at 310 Oak Square, Main Street, Highlands, NC.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

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.

- 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#.

Thursday-Sunday, April 3-6

- The students of Highlands high school present "Get Bill Shakespeare Off the Stage" at PAC. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. and at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Directed by Ronnie Spilton and Jim Gordon of the Highlands Community Players. Tickets are \$5 for adults. Students are free.

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. 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. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820.

Tuesday, April 8

- The Highlands Botanical Garden invites you to volunteer a few hours of your time on Tuesday April 8, anytime between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. We will be preparing beds for summer by mulching, weeding, and planting. This is a great opportunity to become familiar with many of the native plants in the Highlands Botanical Garden, which is free and open to the public, year-round, from dawn till dusk. Stop by the Howell Administration Building at the Highlands Biological Station (6th street entrance, up the hill, 526-2602) and ask for the location of the day's projects. Please bring gardening gloves, sturdy shoes, outdoor clothing, food, water, and a sun hat. Rain cancels. We invite you to the Garden and appreciate your help as we get ready for the 2008 summer season!

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 Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited will offer a 4 hour seminar for men and women 16 years and older. The instruction will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will include casting, entomology, knots and equipment. The seminar is designed for folks who want to get started in the pleasure of fly fishing for trout. The location will be at the Rabun County Recreation Center just south of Rabun County High School. We will be able to accommodate 25 students and the cost of \$25 per person will include lunch. In addition to the 4 hours of instruction, each participant will receive a packet of information including a copy of TROUT magazine, a map of trout streams of Georgia, information about local TU chapters, various sheets of worthwhile information and a copy of Curtis Creek Manifesto book, an excellent guide to fly fishing. To register, contact Charlie Breithaupt knc615@windstream.net or (706) 782-6954.

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 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 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.

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.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate one-mile loop hike on the Rufus Morgan Trail to a beautiful waterfall with lovely spring flowers along the way. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 p.m. Drive 24 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations.

Saturday, April 26

- The Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce is currently seeking volunteers for the Spring Gorge Road Clean Up scheduled for from 8 a.m. to noon. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Please be Green and volunteer! Contact the Chamber of Commerce at 526-5841

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 5-mile moderate hike, with two gradual 300 foot elevation gains, to Black Mountain and Sassafras Gap in Panthertown Valley. Many pink shell azaleas should be in bloom. Call leader Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations.

- Georgia ForestWatch, the premier forest conservation organization in north Georgia, and Tiger Mountain Vineyards, the award-winning farm winery, are combining forces to present a stellar book and music festival 1-4:30 p.m. The "2008 Wild and Woolly Wine Tasting & Author-Fiddler Festival" will be held at Tiger vineyards, just two miles south of Clayton, the same day as the regional Celebrate Clayton street fair, Rabun County's Music & Art Fest. Both events are popular social gatherings in north Georgia, attracting local residents and visitors from both Western North Carolina and the metro Atlanta area. This benefit promises to be a celebration of the written word and Appalachian folkways – with a unique lineup of authors: For further information, contact Kathy Herrygers at info@gafw.org, or call 706.635-8733 or click on: www.gafw.org or <http://www.tigerwine.com>

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Fri: 7:15

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Swanson receives award



Don and Min Swanson of Franklin pictured with Peggy Noonan at a recent event hosted by the John Locke Foundation. Noonan who was a Special Assistant to President Ronald Reagan, is a weekly columnist for the Wall Street Journal and a best-selling author. At the dinner, attended by 500 conservatives, Swanson received the John William Pope, Sr. Award for the Advancement of Freedom in North Carolina.

Please mister give us a bill of sale on this freedom before we go out and get killed. Give us a bill of sale drawn up plainly so we know in advance what we're getting killed for and give us also a first mortgage on something as security so we can be sure after we've won your war that we've got the same kind of freedom we bargained for.

And take decency. Everybody said America was fighting a war for the triumph of decency. But whose idea of decency? And decency for who? Speak up and tell us what decency is. Tell us how much better a decent dead man feels than an indecent live one. Make a comparison there in facts like houses and tables. Make it in words we can understand. And don't talk about honor. The honor of the Chinese or an Englishman or an African Negro or an American or a Mexican? Please all you guys who want to fight to preserve our honor let us know what the hell honor is. Is it American honor for the whole world we're fighting for? Maybe the world doesn't like it. Maybe the South Sea Islanders like their honor better.

Give us things to fight for we can see and feel and pin down and understand, No more highfalutin words that mean nothing like native land. Motherland fatherland homeland native land. It's all the same. What the hell good to you is your native land after your dead? Whose native land is it after you're dead? If you get killed fighting for your native land you've bought a pig in a poke. You've paid for something you'll never collect.

And when they couldn't hook the little guys into fighting for liberty or freedom or democracy or independence or decency or honor they tried the women. Look at the dirty Huns they would say look at them how they rape the beautiful French and Belgian girls. Somebody's

got to stop all that raping. So come on little guy join the army and save the beautiful French and Belgian girls. So the little guy got bewildered and he signed up and in a little while a shell hit him and his life spattered out of him in red meat pulp and he was dead. Dead for another word and all the fierce old bats of the D.A.R. get out and hurrah themselves hoarse over his grave because he died for womanhood.

Now it might be that a guy would risk getting killed if his woman were being raped. But if he did why he was only striking a bargain. He was simply saying that according to the way he felt at the time the safety of his woman was worth more than his own life. But there wasn't anything particularly noble or heroic about it. It was a straight deal his life for something he valued more. It was more or less like any other deal a man might make. But when you change your woman to all the women in the world why you begin to defend women in the bulk. And by that time you're fighting for a word again.

When armies begin to move and flags wave and slogans pop up watch out little guy because it's somebody else's chestnuts in the fire not yours. It's words you're fighting for and you're not making an honest deal your life for something better. You're being noble and after you're killed the thing you traded your life for won't do you any good and chances are it won't do anybody else any good either....

Maybe that's a bad way to think. There are lots of idealists around who will say have we got so low that nothing is more precious than life? Surely there are ideals worth fighting for worth even dying for? If not then

•See FORUM page 17

... FORUM continued from page 2

freedom from another country? Freedom from work or disease or death? Freedom from your mother-in-law?

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... FORUM continued from page 20

we are worse than the beasts of the field and have sunk into barbarity. Then you say that's all right let's be barbarous just so long as we don't have war. You keep your ideals just so long as they don't cost me my life. And they say but surely life isn't as important as principle. Then you say oh no? Maybe not yours but mine is. What the hell is principle? Name it and you can have it.

You can always hear the people who are willing to sacrifice someone else's life. They're plenty loud and they talk all the time. You can find them in churches and schools and newspapers and legislatures and congress. That's their business. They sound wonderful. Death before dishonor. This ground sanctified by blood. These men who died so gloriously. They shall not have died in vain. Our noble dead.

Hmmmm.

But what do the dead say?

Did anybody ever come back from the dead — any single one of the millions who got killed — did any one of them ever come back and say, "By God I'm glad I'm dead because death is always better than dishonor?" Did they say, "I'm glad I died to make the world safe for democracy?" Did they say, "I like death better than losing liberty?" Did any of them ever say, "It's good to think I got my guts blown out for the honor of my country?" Did any of them ever say, "Look at me I'm dead but I died for decency and that's better than being alive?" Did any of them ever say, "Here I am I've been rotting for two years in a foreign grave but it's wonderful to die for your native land?" Did any of them say, "Hurray, I died for womanhood and I'm happy see how I sing even though

my mouth is choked with worms?"

Nobody but the dead know whether all these things people talk about are worth dying for or not. And the dead can't talk. So the words about noble deaths and sacred blood and honor and such are all put into dead lips by grave robbers and fakes who have no right to speak for the dead. If a man says, "Death before dishonor," he is either a fool or a liar because he doesn't know what death is. He isn't able to judge. He only knows about living. He doesn't know anything about dying. If he is a fool and believes in death before dishonor let him go ahead and die. But all the little guys who are too busy to fight should be left alone. And all the guys who say death before dishonor is pure bull. The important thing is life before death they should be left alone too. Because the guys who say life isn't worth living without some principle so important you're willing to die for it they are all nuts. And the guys who say you'll see there'll come a time you can't escape you're going to have to fight and die because it'll mean your very life why they are also nuts. They are talking like fools. They are saying that two and two make nothing. They are saying that a man will have to die in order to protect his life. If you agree to fight you agree to die. Now if you die to protect your life you aren't alive anyhow so how is there any sense in a thing like that? A man doesn't say I will starve myself to death to keep from starving. He doesn't say I will spend all my money in order to save my money. He doesn't say I will burn my house down in order to keep it from burning. Why then should he be willing to die for the privilege of living? There ought to be at least as much common sense about living and dying as there is about

going to the grocery store and buying a loaf of bread.

And all the guys who died all the millions who went out and died to make the world safe for democracy to make the world safe for words without meaning how did they feel about it just before they died? How did they feel as they watched their blood pump out into the mud? How did they feel when the gas hit their lungs and began eating them away? How did they feel as they lay crazed in the hospitals and looked death straight in the face and saw him come and take them? If the thing they were fighting for was important enough to die for then it was also important enough for them to be thinking about it in the last minutes of their lives. That stood to reason. Life is awfully important so if you've given it away you'd ought to think with all your mind in the last moments of your life about the thing you traded it for. So did all those kids die thinking of democracy and freedom and liberty and honor and the safety of the home and the stars and stripes forever?

You're dam right they didn't.

They died crying in their minds like little babies. They forgot the thing they were fighting for the things they were dying for. They thought about things a man can understand. They died yearning for the face of a friend. They died whimpering for the voice of a mother a father a wife a child. They died with their hearts sick for one more look at the place where they were born please god just one more look. They died moaning and sighing for life. They knew what was important. They knew that life was everything and they died with screams and sobs. They died with only one thought in their minds and that was I want to live I want to live I want to live.

He ought to know.

He was the nearest thing to a dead man on earth.

He was a dead man with a mind that could think.

He knew all the answers that the dead knew and couldn't think about. He could speak for the dead because he was one of them. He was the first of all the soldiers who had died since the beginning of time who still had a brain to think with. Nobody could dispute with him. Nobody could prove him wrong. Because nobody knew but he.

He could tell all these high-talking murdering sonsofbitches who screamed for blood just how wrong they were. He could tell them mister there's nothing worth dying for I know because I'm dead. There's no word worth your life. I would rather work in a coal mine deep under the earth and never see sunlight and eat crusts and water and work twenty hours a day. I would rather do that than be dead. I would trade democracy for life. I would trade independence and honor and freedom and decency for life. I will give you all these things and you give me the power to walk and see and hear and breathe the air and taste my food. You take the words. Give me back my life. I'm not asking for a happy life now. I'm not asking for a decent life or an honorable life or a free life. I'm beyond that. I'm dead so I'm simply asking for life. To live. To feel. To be something that moves over the ground and isn't dead. I know what death is and all you people who talk about dying for words don't even know what life is.

There's nothing noble about dying. Not even if you die for honor. Not even if you die for honor. Not even if you die the greatest hero the world ever saw. Not even if you're so great your name will never be forgotten and who's that great? The most important thing is your life little guys. You're worth nothing dead except for speeches. Don't let them kid you any more. Pay no attention when they tap you on the shoulder and say come along we've got to fight for liberty or whatever their word is there's always a word.

Just say mister I'm sorry I got no time to die I'm too

•See FORUM page 26

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... LETTERS continued from page 2

harm which tears the soul and crushes the heart.

Miss Brugger mentioned her disdain for the violence portrayed in the movie Fatal Attraction- OK, that is reasonable. But then all reason flies out the window with the blasé way she mentioned the affair and betrayal which precipitated the violent action. She called it "the common human experience of feeling sexual desire for another," as if we were discussing the common human desire for Krispy

Kreme donuts.

Tell me, how is the heart-rending emotional trauma that is caused by the selfish actions of an unfaithful spouse more appropriate entertainment than seeing a bullet fly through a physical heart? And if that were not bad enough, let's blame the irresponsible, family-destroying actions of people like Spitzer on our society's "puritanical views"- as if we are not responsible for our own actions!

Especially repulsive is the quote with which Brugger ends her article, describing a grand-ole time when adults could enjoy "mature entertainment for the mature," (referring to X-rated films). I resent the fact that we, as a society, have even seen fit to label sexual perversion as "mature entertainment," let alone to hear someone uphold this notion as somehow virtuous and healthy. Since when did maturity have anything to do with throwing the sacredness of physical intimacy to the wind all for a few bucks?

Let's not forget that actors involved

in these kinds of movies are real people, really exploiting themselves for money to portray what is usually a sensual façade of sexuality that is so far removed from reality that it leaves the audience warped and deluded. At least actors in violent films are using special effects and fake blood to tell their stories.

While it may be damaging to our minds and souls to fill our vision with the destruction of a human body, it is certainly not better to get our kicks by intentionally stepping into the bedroom of another couple and viewing what was meant to be private, special and intimate.

Our depravity in relation to sexuality can be just as destructive to our minds, our families, and our country as the violence which Miss Brugger condemns. And if we are really struggling between which kind of demoralizing movie is better to watch, maybe we should just stop watching altogether and pick another form of entertainment.

Darlene Melcher
 Highlands

Check 'yes' for NC Public Campaign

Dear Editor,

I am writing to ask your readers to consider the enormous impact that checking the NC Public Campaign Fund box on their state tax returns could have. Checking the "YES" box ensures that three dollars will go to support fair elections in North Carolina. *Your tax bill will not change.*

Large campaign donors have bought political influence for tax loopholes, environmental deregulation, projects, board appointments and other special favors for so long that we, the taxpayers, are basically disenfranchised, undermining our democracy.

North Carolina has the nation's first "Clean Elections" public financing program for statewide judicial candidates. Judges should be fair and impartial and never be beholden to special interests. The candidates must earn the right to use the Fund by accepting strict fundraising and spending limits.

It's a major breakthrough for "voter-

owned elections" in N.C. - but it won't work without public participation!

So far this year at least 11 of the 16 candidates for seats on the NC Court of Appeals and Supreme Court are opting into the judicial program (now in its third election cycle).

Nearly all the candidates for Commissioner of Insurance, State Auditor, and Superintendent of Public Instruction are signed up, or are strongly considering signing up, for that program.

Recently Democratic gubernatorial candidates Beverly Perdue and Richard Moore have proposed public financing plans for gubernatorial races. Their actions clearly show that candidates are getting the word that they need to support an alternative to the money chase corrupting our political system.

I hope your readers will help by checking "Yes." Please tell NC candidates we need their leadership on this issue.

Cynthia Strain
 Highlands

The Cowee conundrum

Dear Editor,

The county commissioners and the school board have told us time and again that the Cowee school is "landlocked" and therefore there is no room to add to the school. But why would we want to add on? There has been a significant decline in student enrollment at Cowee over the years. For example there were 180 students at the school in 2002. Now there are 158. The decline is similar at Iotla. The numbers were taken from school records at various times throughout the

years, and should be representative.

Perhaps the commissioners can tell us why we need to add to Cowee. I hope it is not because of explosive growth in student population. According to the latest county annual report our total student population has increased by 260 students over the last ten years. That's explosive? And the county built two new schools in those 10 years.

Bob Lavery
 Franklin

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Let your 'Selfish' light shine



Rev. Brian Sullivan
Episcopal Church of the
Incarnation

Ever since God divided the light from the darkness, we have struggled to live in the light. However, for 40 days and 40 nights, we purposefully made ourselves aware of darkness. We lived in the darkness to be reminded that all creation is good. Not only the inanimate, but the animate; not only the unconscious, but the conscious; not only us, but them; not only our neighbors, but our enemies; even the light and the darkness have been declared good.

So how do we define good, if even our enemy is good? A question phrased a different way, how do we live in the light in the midst of darkness. We begin with our own darkness. The darkness that dwells in our own hearts seems so easy to see in others. However, Lent reminds us that the darkness is there (Psalm 51). It is just below the surface. The darkness surfaces when we react from places of darkness, like fear, anger, or frustration. You can see it in your own heart, in our government, in the world we react in darkness. When seen on a global level, we can no longer continue living in the darkness. In other words, our 40 days and 40 nights are over.

Halleluia! Christ is Risen! The Lord is Risen indeed! Halleluia!

Through pronouncing these words at the end of Lent, we claim that we are children of the resurrection. Owning our resurrection in Christ, we know light overcomes darkness. As children of the light, we need to remind ourselves, that we must act with light. It is our light that gives light to the world. When we see what is happening around us, the light we contain is waiting for an excuse to shine.

Our discipline in Lent was to be aware of the darkness from within. Our discipline in the Great 50 Days of Easter is to be aware of the light that is within. For the Great 50 Days, see your light. It is exposed in so many ways. The most obvious is through the gifts you have received. Look around you, your friends, your family. Look at your actions, the things you LOVE to do that give you life. These are usually things that are fun to do. Your inventory of gifts, are a "floodlight" in the world. When you use your gifts, you are the light.

I can almost hear your thoughts, "It can't be that easy." How can gardening, for example, shine darkness into the world? Try it. For the remainder of Easter, make time for the thing that gives you life, that you love, that is fun. You may think you are being purely selfish, but this is a word that has gotten bad publicity. Selfish can also be read: you-ish. A selfish act then becomes an action that exposes who you are. So I am giving you freedom to be selfish. If you continue making time for these selfish actions, you will not only see a difference in yourself but

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 17

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

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

Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770

Sundays: 10 a.m. - Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

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

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

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

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rev. Cass Daly • Office - 526-2320

Sunday: Holy Communion - 11 a.m.

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

Monday: Evening Bible Study at 6 p.m.

Wednesday: Men's Bible study at 8 a.m.
at First Baptist Church

Pot Luck Lunch last Sunday of each month.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Everett Brewer

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Prayer - 6:30 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 Worship;
6:30 p.m. High School Group

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

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

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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 children's

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

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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

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Sundays: Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Adult discussion
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Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. - 7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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

**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 util-

ities. 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

**HOUSE FOR SALE IN WEST PALM BEACH,
FLORIDA.** 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath in adorable, quiet neighborhood 2 miles from ocean and Palm Beach Island and 5 miles from downtown. \$450,000. Call 561-379-9151. 7/31

**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/HIDDEN CREEK 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.

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, FLORI-
DA)** - 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

INDIAN ARTIFACTS - pre-historic arrowheads, private collection of about 50 points (in frame) \$250.00. Alex (828)332-0138

GREEN PRINT VELOUR SWIVEL ROCKER, new, \$250; blue stripe club chair w/ottoman, like new, \$175; large pine armoire, like new, \$200; Simms X-large waders w/attached boots, bought at Highland Hiker, used 3 times, \$250. Call Beatrice or Dennis at 743-5600.

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

JEEP 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

2002 ISUZU TROOPER LS — 71,000 miles with all the bells & whistles. \$8,795. Call 526-3262.

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. 4/10

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

2002 TOYOTA LANDCRUISER, BIK/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 ADEL GID 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 them 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, 4/10

... BRUGGER continued from page 7

documentary with the subtitle "The Human Cost of War." It consists almost entirely of soldiers talking about their experience in the military, from recruiting, through training, to tours of Iraq and Afghanistan, and the return home. They recount the difficulties of readjusting to civilian life: after being taught to dominate and kill: how do you switch that off? One soldier said, "You lose your humanity and it's hard to get it back." These eight men and one woman recount the anguish of killing innocent civilians, seeing dead children, watching buddies die, and (for some) being physically injured for the rest of their lives.

The film clearly had an anti-war perspective, but it has a power that

transcends its politics. These were men and women who were proud to be members of the U.S. military, who believed in their country and were happy to serve. These stories of pain did not come easily.

I remember reading in an article recently about an outpost somewhere in Afghanistan where *every single* U.S. soldier stationed there was receiving psychological treatment.

In the latest issue of *The New Yorker* is a tale of how an ordinary American — one who was described by her fellow soldiers as literally unwilling to hurt a fly — was turned into the kind of person who could inflict the documented prisoner abuses at Abu Ghraib. It's not pretty, but it documents the corrosive

effect war has on a person.

A study done in 2006 found that one-third of U.S. soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan seek mental health services. And a government report released in 2007 found there were 99 confirmed suicides among U.S. Army soldiers in 2006, the highest rate in 26 years. More than 25 percent of those who committed suicide did so while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

My mother's father was gassed in WWI. He was so badly injured the doctors advised him not to marry as he surely would not live long. Luckily for me he ignored their advice and sure enough he did die, at age 95. But in all that long life he never talked about his war experiences to any of his family, except for my brother after he joined the Marine Reserves.

In *Flags of our Fathers*, [940.54 B] the deeply moving book by James Bradley about Iwo Jima (made into the two-part film by Clint Eastwood) the author tells how his father, one of the men who raised the flag on Mount Suribachi, cried every night in his sleep for years after the war.

War wounds the soul. War wounds not only the people who fight it but also the whole country. We may think we are oblivious to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but our denial is part of our soul-wound.

This is why war is something that should only be entered into with the utmost seriousness as a last resort: its effects are deep and long-lasting.

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

... FORUM continued from page 21

busy and then turn and run like hell. If they say coward why don't pay any attention because it's your job to live not to die. If they talk about dying for principles that are bigger than life you say mister you're a liar. Nothing is bigger than life. There's nothing noble in death. What's noble about lying in the ground and rotting? What's noble about never seeing the sunshine again? What's noble about having your legs and arms blown off? What's noble about being an idiot? What's noble about being blind and deaf and dumb?

What's noble about being dead? Because when your dead mister it's all over. It's the end. You're less than a dog less than a rat less than a bee or an ant less than a white maggot crawling around on a dungheap. You're dead mister and you died for nothing.

You're dead mister.
Dead"

• On this same topic, other recommended reading: *All's Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque

• REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS •

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

HIGHLANDS TOWNSHIP

- 0519509, OFF RD 1545 LOT 4 HIGHLAND HILLS, CALVARY CHAPEL OF FORT LAUDERDALE INC, 12/28/2007, \$0., DAVIS MARK T TRUSTEE 151,840.
- 0502748, 104 MOUNTAIN ASH LN LOT 8 SEC A WILDCAT CLIFFS, JOHNSON WENDY B, 1/16/2008, \$595,000., TIFT WILLIAM L, \$551,030.
- 0502795, 232 BUCKBERRY RD BUCKBERRY FALLS, SINRICH GARY A, 1/17/2008, \$496,000., TULLER WILLIAM, \$573,190.
- 0503430, 59 KLEIN RD BROADVIEW ACRES, WATKINS LUTHER C III, 1/24/2008, \$335,000., EBERT DAVID J, \$203,970.
- 0503758, OFF RD 1544 LOT 9B SEC B FLAT TOP MT, VISTA GRANDE INC, 1/7/2008, \$0., VISTA GRANDE INC, \$189,390.
- 0503944, 400 WATKINS RD WEBB MONT, FLYNN KYLE HENDRICKSON, 1/23/2008, \$0., FLYNN KYLE HENDRICKSON, \$412,120.
- 0538162, WILSON GAP RD TRACT 1, JENNINGS MAQUETTA WILSON, 12/31/2007, \$0., EVERETT, \$106,980.
- 0504475, 606 WALKINGSTICK RD RUSTIC FALLS, TAYLOR HAL M, 2/15/2008, \$545,000., SMITH JENNIFER, \$303,240.
- 0521704, 1146 FALLS DR HFCC, LANGFORD FRANK M, 12/17/2007, \$1,035,000., STEADMAN SOL, \$1,105,980.
- 0505152, 66 FALLEN LEAF LN PARCEL 1 KEENER PROPERTY, GENTRY DONALD WILLIAM, 2/1/2008, \$367,500., KING F CARLTON JR, \$366,200.
- 0540863, 55 HOLT COTTAGE LN, BROOKS JAMES S, 1/3/2008, \$415,000., PALMER KEVIN L, \$405,990.
- 0524395, 1727 CLEAR CREEK RD, EVANS JAMES, 1/4/2008, \$362,500., ROGERS CHRISTINA GREENE, \$447,810.
- 0542648, 85 HIGH COTTON LN LOT 6 HIGH COTTON ESTATES, ADAMS ALFRED GARRARD, 1/30/2008, \$119,000., ADAMS JULIA HUBER, \$185,100.
- 0543411, OFF RD 64 LOT 6C WILD-

WOOD FOREST, ETCHELLS ROBERT, 2/8/2008, 508000., CIMARRON BUILDERS INC, \$425,260.

• 0526749, ON 64E LOT 2 APPLE MTN ESTATES, STUCKEY SAMUEL ASHTON, 1/18/2008, \$580,000., REDENBAUGH ROGER W TRUSTEE, \$84,990.

• 0526757, 59 APPLE MOUNTAIN LN LOT 10 APPLE MOUNTAIN ESTATES, STUCKEY SAMUEL ASHTON, 1/18/2008, \$580,000., REDENBAUGH ROGER W TRUSTEE, \$515,360.

• 0510384, OFF 64 E LOT 28-A COWEE MTN SUBD, KENDLER ERNEST A, 1/8/2008, 375000., BRYSON JAMES P., \$307,800.

• 0544988, STREAMSIDE LN LOT 32 LAKE OSSEROGA, TIME REMAINING LLC, 12/28/2007, \$0., CAPTIVA LTD, \$300,000.

SCALY MOUNTAIN TOWNSHIP

• 0650285, SHOAL CREEK RD LOT 10B & 11 SILLY RIDGE, BRUSICH JON M, 1/3/2008, \$0., BRUSICH JON M, \$230,420.

• 0650368, SR 1622 OFF S R 1622, WELLS DAVID R, 12/20/2007, \$202,500., WELLS DAVID R, \$193,580.

• 0650388, CHASTAIN RD ON RD 1691, SIMON MARTIN A, 12/28/2007, \$210,000., SLATER DONALD R. JR., \$226,410.

• 0600199, 52 MARTINS TRL ON RD 1626, GRIST FAMILY PROPERTIES LLC, 12/17/2007, \$0., GRIST F MAX, \$1,223,560.

• 0600495, ON RD 1625 ON RD 1625, SCHMITT TODD SAMUEL, 2/13/2008, 50,000., SCOTT VIRGINIA, \$39,400.

• 0618807, 515 HIGHPOINT DR LOT 21 ROCKY KNOB, STUDDARD BOBBY J TRUSTEE, 2/29/2008, \$73,000., MARCHAND GUY FOREST, \$38,920.

• 0622304, 811 THOMAS KNOB TRL LOT 7 THOMAS KNOB ESTATES, LEMM KENNETH J, 1/4/2008, \$0., THOMAS KNOB HOMES LLC, \$579,100.

• 0622322, 300 THOMAS KNOB TRL LOT 24 THOMAS KNOB ESTATES, THOMAS KNOB HOMES LLC, 12/27/2007, \$0., LEMM KEN, \$563,870.

7 Days A Week 24 Hours A Day...Even Holidays

We will locate, excavate and pump it!



Mention this ad & SAVE \$25

Roto-Rooter Plumbing & Drain Cleaning of Highlands and Cashiers now offers septic tank pumping, drain field cleaning and septic field location.

Think your drainfield needs replacing?

The majority of drainfield problems occur due to build up in the drain lines. Roto-Rooter can clean lines, saving you thousands of dollars when compared to replacing lines.

Based in Highlands • Call 526-8313 • Free Estimates

POLICE, FIRE, & SHERIFF DEPT. LOGS

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the weeks of March 17-26. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

March 17

• At noon, a resident on Worley Road reported a BOSE AM/FM CD radio player missing from his home. It is valued at \$1,200.

March 20

• At noon, a park bench was reported missing from the Highlands Greenway..

March 21

• At 4:47 p.m., an employee at Main Street Pharmacy reported he was assaulted by a woman.

March 22

• At 8:30 a.m., a breaking and entering with larceny was reported at a residence on Hickory Street where about \$8,000 worth of furniture including various tables, rugs and laps were stolen. The case is under investigation. The resident reported that sometime between Nov. 30 and March 22 the items were taken.

• At 8:50 p.m. a motorist at Cobb and N.C. 106 was cited for driving without a license and speeding 53 mph in a 35 zone.

March 24

• At 10:30 a.m., Cathy Brooks, 49, of Highlands, was arrested

for simple assault at Main Street Pharmacy. She was released on a \$1,000 unsecured bond.

March 25

• At 8:30 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at U.S. 64 east and Laurel Street where one motorist was cited for driving without a license and another cited for failing to make a proper right turn.

• At 11 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on U.S. 64 east.

• At 12:05 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Holt Knob and U.S. 64 west where a motorist was cited for failing to decrease speed to avoid an accident..

• At 4:03 p.m., a motorist on Main Street was cited for speeding 42 mph in a 25 zone.

• During the week officers issued 1 warning ticket.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of March 21-26.

March 21

• The dept. responded to a vehicle fire at the Farmers Market. It was extinguished.

• Twice, the dept. responded to an alarm at the Cullasaja Club.

March 22

• The dept. responded to the call of a brush fire at Broadway

Circle, but it was a controlled burn.

March 23

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

March 24

• The dept. responded to an alarm at the Cullasaja Club.

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Sassafrass Gap Road. 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 19-25.

March 19

• At 2 p.m., Top Line Grading, reported the receipt of a bad check in the amount of \$24,680.

March 21

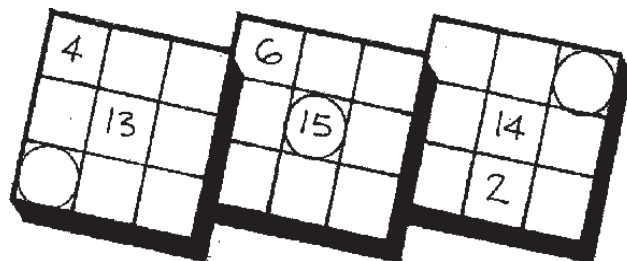
• At 22:41, deputies responded to an alarm at a residence on Lake Sequoyah

March 25

• A resident on U.S. 64 west reported his 1989 blue Volvo vandalized.

• FUN & GAMES •

PseudoCube©



AZ2D - Level of Difficulty - HARD

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.

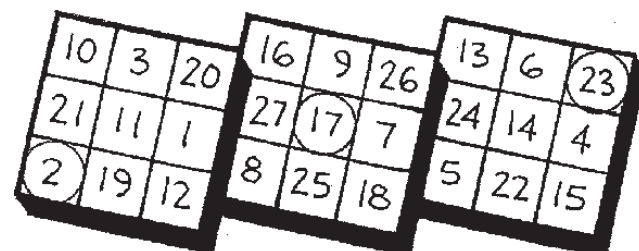
THE CHALLENGE:

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 #DZ3D in March 20 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

"Well stirred milk component"

Across

1. Womoen's Air Corps (abb.) (3)
2. Jaws (3)
3. Lash (4)
4. Father (slang) (3)
5. Large tart (3)

Down

6. Mother (slang) (2)
7. Knock (3)
8. Atmosphere (3)
9. Personal pronoun (2)
10. Rapid eye movement (abb.) (3)

	C			A		W	
1		R	M		W	A	P
2	A		7	P		H	
	E		M	A		C	W
3	H			C			8
	C	4		W		9	M
		W			M		10
	R		C	I		P	H
5	I			R			M

Solution to March 20 puzzle

U	C	N	D	E	S	A	R	T
R	D	T	A	U	N	E	S	C
A	S	E	T	C	R	D	N	U
N	U	D	C	A	E	R	T	S
T	R	A	N	S	D	U	C	E
C	E	S	R	T	U	N	A	D
S	T	U	E	N	A	C	D	R
E	A	R	S	D	C	T	U	N
D	N	C	U	R	T	S	E	A

Find It All On This Map

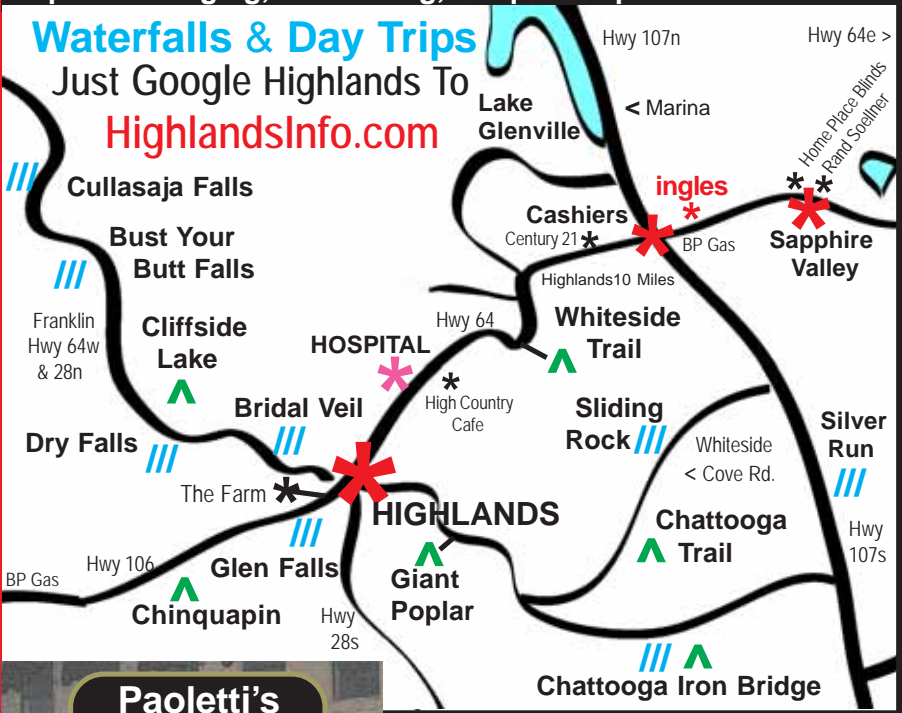
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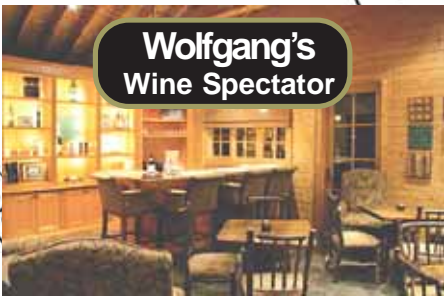
Waterfalls & Day Trips

Just Google Highlands To

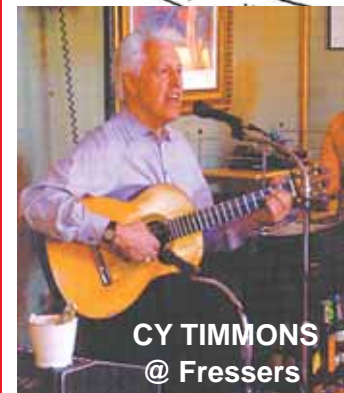
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2008 Highlands Map

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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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