

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 6, Number 20

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Thursday, May 15, 2008

On-going

• 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.

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

• 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.

Thursdays

• Live Music with Brad Vroon at Fire-side Restaurant in Wright Square from 6-9 p.m. with Tapas Menu.

Friday & Saturday

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

Saturdays

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

Sundays

• Live Music with Brad Vroon at Fire-side Restaurant in Wright Square, noon-3 p.m.

Friday-Sunday, May 15-May 18

• HCP's The Last Night of Ballyhoo at PAC. 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 Sunday matinee. Call 526-8084 for tickets.

Thursday, May 15

• Highlands School PTO meeting at 6 p.m.

Friday, May 16

• Join friends of Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust for a tour of the beautiful "Smith Gardens." Contact HCLT by May 15th to sign up & for info: 526-1111.

Saturday, May 17

• Highlands-Cashiers free health screenings, for residents of Cashiers, Glenville, and Sapphire at Blue Ridge School.

• The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society will have a birding field trip to the Lonesome Valley development in Cashiers. Call Edwin Pool at 526-2775 or Romney Bathurst at 526-1939.

• The Highlands Memorial Post 370 of the American Legion meeting at the Highlands Civic Center for 9 a.m. Call Ed Jones at 743-0986.

Sunday, May 18

• Author Joshilyn Jackson booksigning at Cyrano's Bookshop from 1-3 p.m.

• First Presbyterian Church and WCU present "A Faculty Showcase Concert" featuring Gamelan, a low tech ensemble at 4 p.m. at the church and it's free.

• At First Baptist Church, Blue Ridge Concert at 6:30 p.m.

Property taxes could rise by 2.35 cents

Even with a proposed tax rate increase of 2.35 cents to help support a recommended balanced budget of \$45.9 million for 2008-2009, Macon County's tax rate is still one of the lowest in the state.

At the May 12 Macon Coun-

ty Commission meeting, County Manager Jack Horton presented the first draft of the 2008-2009 budget.

"The county is in sound financial condition and enjoys the distinction of having the lowest

property tax rate in the state. Our fund balance is strong and allows the county a high degree of confidence when it comes to being prepared for unexpected emergencies, and taking advantage of in-

• See TAXES page 7

Highlands Smokehouse to rise again

At the Wednesday, May 14 Zoning Board meeting, members deliberated over the issuance of a Special Use Permit (SUP) to resurrect the old Highlands Smokehouse on U.S. 64 west.

Though everyone was eager to see the restaurant reopen, the fact that it is a commercial use in a residential district caused concern over potential noise.

"The town is at a transition point subsequent to the passage of the liquor license concerning noise potential," said Chairman Bill Rethorst. "A rocking band at a restaurant downtown versus one in a residential area is the concern if it becomes an attractive congregation spot, because the game has changed."

Owner Charlie Hyland said the business plan envisions live music inside the restaurant on Fridays and Saturdays and though an alcoholic beverage bar will be incorporated inside the restaurant, the restaurant is meant to be suitable for families.

The outside deck, which is built around a hemlock, was seen as a potential gathering place and potentially a source for noise late into the evening.

As such, Zoning Administrator Joe Cooley said the board could put restrictions on the SUP which would protect area homeowners.

"As per 501.4 of the Zoning Ordinance, the Zoning Board of Adjustment has the power to ap-

• See SMOKEHOUSE page 13



Tracy Hedden and Gail Garland.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

School peers name Hedden and Garland 'The Best'

Every year Macon County school employees honor a teacher and a teacher assistant by naming them "Best of the Year."

This year, Highlands School 5th grade teacher Tracy Hedden was named "Teacher of the Year" and Media Assistant Gail Garland was named "Teacher Assistant of the Year."

"Both the "Teacher of the Year" and the "Teacher Assistant of the Year" are nominated and then voted on by the employees of the school," said Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter.

"That includes teachers, cus-

todians, clerical, and cafeteria workers. They all vote. We have two very fine and very worthy employees who have been voted by their peers."

For Hedden, a Highlands School graduate, being named Teacher of the Year evokes a lot of emotions.

"It is very rewarding and humbling to receive this honor," she said. "It is also very special as I think of my Granny Baty who died in 1991. She always encouraged me to chase my dreams -- to reach for the stars. She saw the

• See BEST page 13

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PB dicusses 'Display' ordinance

In what it hopes is the final word on the subject, the Planning Board outlined another "Display of Outdoor Merchandise" ordinance at its May 12 meeting.

Before the group began discussing the matter, Chairman Griffin Bell asked members if they were in favor of displaying merchandise on private property or if they were against it. The board was unanimously in favor of it.

That settled the next issue became regulating the type of merchandise that could be displayed and defining exactly where it could be exhibited.

Members agreed that the display of merchandise had to be addressed throughout the zoning districts but different regulations would apply.

The board suggested objects couldn't be displayed within five feet of an entranceway and that highly flammable objects and objects with moveable parts should be prohibited in the B1 and B2 districts.

In addition, merchandise hanging on doorways will be prohibited. The board determined the five-foot clearance around en-

• See DISPLAY page 7

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
65-45°F	68-48°F	70-49°F

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Signs of the times

Dear Editor,

Signage can sometimes be environmentally unfriendly. Large road signs are often tacky and an eyesore and usually bought and paid for by big corporations. I can really understand concerns on this matter. However, it is also a free speech constitutional issue. If you bought the sign and particularly if you own the property on which it stands, you should be able to display it with no fear and no trespassing violations. In fact signage can even be displayed on public property under the 1st amendment rights since the public pays for it with their taxes.

Here's the problem of late. We are in an election year and there is the usual campaign signs strewn on the sides of roads and on the lawns of private property. From my recent experience I had given out signs for any citizen that desired to display them as they wish. I only had six to distribute. I am not afraid to say they were for my candidate of choice Barack Obama. In less than two weeks all the signs were stolen from private and public property. Now, I'm very polite politically and would never dream of doing such a thing even though I don't agree with McCain who likes missiles, WMDs, and bombing innocent people but I find it appalling that this side of the aisle also likes to steal signs, civil rights outlined in the constitution, and elections. People must agree to disagree but not break the laws! To do such acts you must be really fearful and confused.

I love that we have freedom of speech in this country since many people and countries do not. Whoever it is that is preventing it and lowering themselves to stealing a five-dollar sign I hope you realize how you are hurting this country. Perhaps you would like to live outside a Democratic Republic.

Lee Hodges
Highlands

MLI one step closer to socialism

Dear Editor,

Have you followed the Mountain Landscapes Initiative (MLI) story in our local press? What great promises they make. We will have a neat, clean, orderly community, consisting of seven western counties, because participation by the people will make the laws MLI draft righteous.

Now here is the rest of the story. The Lawrence Group from St. Louis, specializing in "New Urban Planning," will be conducting the meetings. Someone from St. Louis is supposed to tell us how to plan here in the mountains? Let's be clear, they will be preparing land use plans that will impact our property rights. But how can environmental groups or non-government offices like Land Trust for the Little Tennessee, Western North Carolina Alliance, Preservation North Carolina, Cowee Community Development Organization, or even the Department of Transportation draft laws that affect us? What happened to the "people's voice" concept. Are special interest groups like these appropriate to draft laws for us, the citizens and tax payers? No, they are not!

We need to be clear — the central planning which MLI proposes is directly opposite to our present model of property rights and property management. Why are we being offered a new model when there is nothing wrong with the present one? Central planning like this has been tried over and over but always comes to an unsatisfactory end. America was not founded on socialism.

All of this begs the question. Why did our commissioners pay Mountain Landscapes Initiative, a non governmental organization, \$10,000 to

write laws that will have a serious impact on our property rights and not require any accountability? Further, MLI was not voted in so it cannot be vetoed out. Which, in my opinion, makes them very dangerous as they will be around indefinitely, chiseling away at our property rights.

Norman Roberts
Franklin

Paving the way to understanding the Mountain Landscapes Initiative

Dear Editor,

I'm writing in response to Norm Roberts' letter concerning the Mountain Landscape Initiative in this issue. We're looking forward to him and everyone else with an interest in the future of communities in the region stopping by the University Center at WCU to check out the charrette in person. Here's where they'll find the schedules for the main workshop in Cullowhee and the satellite charrettes in Cashiers and Cowee — along with the background, history, and regular updates of the "Tool Box" effort: www.mountainlandscapesnc.org. As you know, everything is open to everyone all

the time.

His letter-to-the-editor gives me the impression I've failed to explain adequately what the project is about. I took a shot at that explanation previously via email in December. In those emails, I invited him to peruse the original Request for Proposal we sent out to prospective consulting teams so he would know exactly what we expected from the process. That RFP, by the way, is on the website under "Resources."

I think everything we've done since December — the 70 interviews with citizens for the "Seeking Balance" documentary (also on the website) and the eight community meetings in April that shaped the agenda for the May charrette — backs up what we've said all along about the MLI process. Specifically, that the "Tool Box" that will come out of this process will represent what experts, including long-time builders and developers in the region, consider best practices for site preparation, road building, development, and planning in the mountains. But it will not, by itself, have the force of law.

County and town governments are contributing to the process and can use the opportunity to develop codes and ordinances as they see fit. I suspect some will and some won't. But at the very least, we will have a chance to get everybody at the table to talk about what constitutes good approaches to developing in the mountains and what rules seem appropriate.

But please let me know how I can be more clear about the project's base in citizens' and elected officials' requests for help, about its inclusive process, and about the strictly voluntary application of the tools for planning and development we expect to research and refine, with citizen help, over the next week.

Ben Brown
Communications Director, MLI
Franklin

Paper did wrong by columnist

Dear Editor,

Well, that certainly was a mean spirited piece of work Matthew Eberz wrote about Don Swanson in the May 8 edition. It is most unusual that one reads a column attacking other columnists of the same newspaper. I guess I shouldn't be too surprised though, loyalty and respect in America has become a thing of the past.

• See LETTERS page 17

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.

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• OBITUARY •

Ruth Virginia Nausbaum

Ruth Virginia Nausbaum, age 92, of Highlands, NC, died Monday, May 5, 2008 at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital after a short illness. She was a native of Lakewood, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland, and the daughter of Harriett and Gustav Braun.

She was a neighbor, playmate and schoolmate of John Otto Nausbaum, whom she married in 1937. They were married for 71 years. During World War II, when Otto was in Europe, Ruth worked as a lathe operator making valves for war aircraft engines. She later became a sterling silver buyer for an exclusive gift shop in Cleveland. After retiring, she was a homemaker and dog handler in addition to gardener in the many homes she and Otto built, including two in central Mexico. She was also a very talented artist.

Ruth is survived by her husband John Otto Nausbaum, a niece from Tennessee, a niece and nephew from Ohio, and her extended family at Chestnut Hill of Highlands.

A memorial service will be held later at Chestnut Hill. Memorials can be made to the Chestnut Hill Remembrance Fund, PO Box 40, Highlands, NC 28741. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made by visiting www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Frances-Elizabeth Signorelli

Frances-Elizabeth Signorelli, 87 of St. Augustine, FL died peacefully in her sleep on May 13, 2008 at Bayview Pavilion. Signorelli moved from Highlands, N.C. to St. Augustine to be near her daughter subsequent to her husband, Louie's death in 1999.

Signorelli is survived by four adult children, Sam Brooks of Washington, DC, Burke Biow of Houston, Texas, Dr. Annabel Brooks of St. Augustine, FL and Ernest Alfred (Buddy) Brooks of Flagstaff, Arizona and too many cherished and loving friends to site individually. The family requests that in lieu of flowers donations be made to Hospice, an organization Signorelli volunteered with in Key West.

Signorelli, along with her husband Louie turned their oceanfront Victorian home at 700 Waddell Avenue in Key West Florida into the now infamous Louie's Backyard, a five star restaurant frequented by celebrities near and far.

Signorelli has enthralled readers with her humorous, thought provoking columns for eighty years through a light-hearted journalistic career, gliding from her native Carlsbad, New Mexico to the Permian Basin oil fields of West Texas to Washington, DC to Key West, FL., Highlands, N.C., and St. Augustine, FL.

Signorelli's *Lightning* column in the St. Augustine Record, *Go Tell It On The Mountain* in Highlands and a society column in The Key West Citizen featured interesting personalities — some real, some imaginary. Signorelli's novel, *Human Foibles* written in 1989 has experienced a rebirth and resurgence as new readers are discovering the delicious whimsy embedded in ever-so-recognizable romps through this world and others.

One of Signorelli's last columns in the St. Augustine Record captures her gift of spirit and language poignantly, "I suppose real old age begins when one looks backwards, rather than forward. I believe that someone is beautiful and sweet, and that by thinking, it makes it so. Never contradict. Never explain, Never apologize. Those are the secrets of a happy life."

• MILESTONES •



VanHook-Schrey earns Doctorate of Education

Long time English teacher of Highlands School and the incoming principal of the Blue Ridge School Early College High School, Beverly VanHook-Schrey was presented her doctorate during the May 10 ceremony at Western Carolina University. Her dissertation was entitled "An Investigation of Computer Technology Integration and Factors that Influence Technology Integration in N.C.'s Secondary English Language Arts Classrooms." VanHook is currently assistant principal at the Blue Ridge School in Jackson County.

• MILESTONES •



Hicks continues to make the mark

April Hicks, Highlands School graduate 2006 earned Dean's List honors for the fall semester 2007. April is enrolled in Western Carolina University's Honors College and is pursuing a major in Elementary Education with a concentration in English.

1997 Tony Award for Best Play

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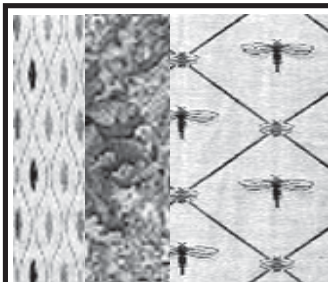
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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

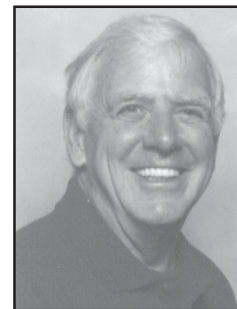
Place your 'Betz'

Write this statement down, then put it in your pocket and then take it to the bank. It will take a minimum of four employees to replace Richard Betz. Now that may sound like I'm a huge Betz fan but would you believe I hardly know the guy? I'm thinking about his track record and my tax money here.

What I do know about government function is that all governments take a guy like Mister Richard, workhorse, Betz and run them ragged until they're exhausted. Without knowing for sure, I'm bettin' that Richard has wanted to quit a dozen times but never said a word to anyone. He stayed on because, first off, he needed a job, but more, he is a workhorse who loves Highlands. The key phrase here is *LOVES HIGHLANDS*. You can bet that attribute is about to disappear. Write that down also.

The departure of Richard is huge. Hiring a town manager is huge. Changing our form of government is double huge. It is the transformation of our tiny little functioning village into a city that will become something else. What it becomes remains to be seen. It is also a scary time because our past track record for hiring outside cone-heads to run things around here is dismal. Puleeese, don't ask me to list them all because it's much too embarrassing. By the way, what is Larry Gantenbein up to these days?

First of all, let me tell you what my definition of a cone-head is, just in case you've been living on Mars and don't read my stuff. Not only do cone-heads give out scrambled eggs to kids on Halloween night, they try to emulate mountain folks so as to give the appearance they really do love this place and know what they're doing. In reality they don't give a hoot (ha) about us. It takes our outside cone-heads a while to realize that they really don't belong. They are usually well educated and well spoken but don't have the common sense to stay home during an ice storm. They stick around a year or two and move on, usually leaving Highlands in worse shape than they found it. Whose idea was it for two-hour parking, anyway? Where is that guy?



Fred Wooldridge

**Feedback
is encouraged!
email:**

askfredanything@aol.com

A cone-head is also a person who is qualified for the job, but, because of his or her salary offer, goes into sticker shock when looking for housing, then winds up living in Georgia in Clayton or Dillard.

At this point, I guess you're thinking I'm not too fond of cone-heads but nothing could be further from the truth. The world could not function without them. At the risk of sounding practical, I have a short list of attributes the Town Board

should consider before hiring a manager.

The first question to ask is why is the applicant out of work and how long did he last in his past five jobs? I just hate it when I'm practical, but that question is huge. Did he ever keep a job for 26 years? Next, how long has he or she lived in Highlands before applying for the job. If they have lived in Highlands for five years or more but travel to another city to be city manager where they have worked for 26 years, then they may be qualified for the job. Oops, only kidding on that one. Next, does the guy have a sense of humor? We all know Betz has a great sense of humor. How else could he have tolerated a zillion zany Town Boards, committees, special interest groups and mayors for all those years and still be here. And last, this is huge also, is he willing to take telephone calls at 3 a.m. about the barking dog across the street from the caller?

I am hoping the Town Board is wise enough to ask Richard to be a major part of the selection process. I am also hoping the Town Board is wise enough to ask Richard to stay on with our new manager as an advisor for at least six months so we don't have friction. Are you aware there will be friction? Nice little towns with strong mayor types of government don't easily make the transition well. There will be friction.

Hmmm, actually why don't we just throw the whole process in the trash and hire Betz as our new town manager? Nah...that's much too practical. Besides, he's much too smart to take the job.

• Who is the lady that haunts Fred's memory? Read his book, [I'm Moving Back to Mars](#).

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Life is 'cheap' in the third world

More than 20,000 people were reported dead following a cyclone in Myanmar. More than 40,000 remain missing, most of them probably sucked out to sea by receding waters, and as many as a million may be homeless. If international aid estimates are correct, thousands more many perish from starvation and water borne diseases.

An earthquake recently struck China. Nine thousand died in a single county. They must have some enormous counties in China. The tsunami of December 26, 2004 killed more than a quarter of a million people. The destruction and loss of life was so massive and so sudden that I remember the date. I can't think of another natural disaster whose date I can recall. I remember December 7, 1941, November 22, 1963, and September 11, 2001, but none of those tragedies was "natural." Earthquakes in Pakistan in 2005 claimed nearly 75,000 lives.

When I hear such awful tolls, I'm not surprised that the events occurred in developing countries. Of course "developing" usually means undeveloped, but is less pejorative and hence more acceptable. Poor countries are ripe for such astounding loss. They lack rigid building codes. Communication systems to warn populations of impending disasters and roads for evacuation and to bring needed supplies are often lacking. Emergency planning and response are inadequate or nonexistent. Sophisticated medical care is unavailable in poor countries, as are supplies of food and water for emergency response. It's hard to lay aide stores of provisions for an emergency when starvation is a daily threat. In countries where staying alive is a full time job, where survival is a daily struggle, it doesn't take much of an event to tip the scales from life to death. Because these countries and their people are so poor and so plentiful, a few thousand or a few hundred thousand seem more dispensable, death a constant fact of life.

Governments generally lack the resources and sometimes the will to protect their citizens. Life is cheaper where poverty is deeper. The carnage is often hundreds or thousands of times greater in a third world country than the toll resulting from a natural disaster of similar magnitude in the first world. When an earthquake struck the San Francisco bay area during a World Series



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

game in 1989, only 40 people perished. In our country, we see image of massive devastation and learn that only six people died, usually in a trailer park.

I think that fact explains why Hurricane Katrina, with its massive loss of life, remains such a stain on our national soul. How could we have been so ill prepared? How could so many have suffered and died? Why did all levels of government fail so miserably in the first responsibility of

government, to protect its citizens? It is not as if the storm were a surprise. The National Oceanographic and Aeronautic Administration, the nation's weatherman, had predicted a direct hit on New Orleans, and, in a doom's day scenario, accurately predicted the ravages of the storm. President Bush, who apparently wasn't watching CNN that day, later said that no one could have anticipated the destructive force of the storm. Most disturbing to me were images of bloated bodies floating in flooded streets and dazed survivors struggling through chest deep water in scenes that looked very much liked pictures from the third world.

We will perhaps never know if the failures were the result of massive incompetence or utter disregard for our poorest citizens. Whatever the explanation for the tragedy, it is safe to say that never has so little been done with so much by so many. I think of Katrina and resist the urge to judge the pitiful relief efforts of those nations who find themselves victims of acute catastrophe superimposed upon chronic despair.

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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

Last week a courageous woman died. I had never heard of her before reading her obituary. Her name was Mildred Loving, and she was of mixed Native American and African blood. She grew up in Virginia. She married her childhood sweetheart right after high school.

And they lived happily ever after...except for one small detail. Her husband was a white man and the year was 1958.

Reportedly, Mr. and Mrs. Loving were in bed on the night of July 11, 1958 when the county sheriff barged into their bedroom and arrested them. The couple had married in Washington, D.C., and under Virginia law, a marriage between people of different races was illegal — it didn't matter whether the ceremony was performed in or outside Virginia.

Virginia's law, the Racial Integrity Act, had been on the books since 1662, adopted a year after Maryland enacted the first such statute. The word for mixed-race marriage is "miscegenation," and at one time or another, 38 states had laws barring marriages between races; in 1958

16 states banned them. State and federal courts consistently upheld the prohibitions until 1948, when the California Supreme Court overturned California's law.

After Mr. Loving spent a night in jail and his wife several more, the couple pleaded guilty. Caroline County Circuit Court Judge Leon M. Bazile sentenced them to a year's imprisonment, to be suspended if they left the state for the next 25 years. They could return to see family but only if they came alone; they could not be in Virginia together. Judge Bazile ruled, "Almighty God created the races white, black, yellow, malay and red, and he placed them on separate continents. And but for the interference with his arrangement there would be no cause for such marriages. The fact that he separated the races shows that he did not intend for the races to mix."

Loving v Virginia



Katie Brugger
k-brugger@hotmail.com

The Lovings moved to Washington, D.C. but five years later, while visiting her mother, they were arrested again for traveling together. Mrs. Loving, who had been following the civil rights legislation, wrote a letter to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy to find out if the new laws would allow the couple to travel freely. He

wrote her back and suggested she contact the American Civil Liberties Union, which took her case to the Supreme Court.

In 1967 the Supreme Court ruling in the case struck down the last segregation laws to remain on the books — those requiring separation of the races in marriage. The ruling was unanimous, its opinion written by Chief Justice Earl Warren. In *Loving v. Virginia* (how wonderful and perfect that the plaintiff's name is 'loving!'), Warren wrote that miscegenation laws violated the

Constitution's equal protection clause: "We have consistently denied the constitutionality of measures which restrict the rights of citizens on account of race."

Though the Supreme Court's decision established that miscegenation laws were unconstitutional, Southern states were slow to change their constitutions; Alabama became the last state to do so, in 2000. Today, according to the Census Bureau, there are 4.3 million interracial couples in the nation.

American race relations have been in the news lately. Barack Obama was embarrassed by his preacher and gave what was widely called his "race speech." Many people have been saying it's finally time for Americans to have a "national conversation about race." (Remember Trent Lott calling for that conversation after his birthday salute to Strom Thurmond in 2002? Strom Thurmond had run for President in 1948 under a platform that declared in part, "We stand for the segregation of the races and the racial integrity of each race," and Lott said

See BRUGGER page 30

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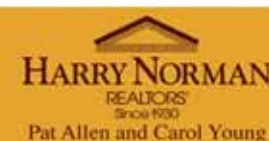
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... TAXES continued from page 1

vestment opportunities that generate revenue keeping the property tax rate down. This and a solid and consistent tax collection rate, contributes to an excellent bond rating for the county."

In his budget message, Horton emphasized highlights and challenges in next year's spending plan. On the revenue side he said the county continues to grow, but due to changes in the local regional and national economy, he doesn't expect the growth to be as brisk as it has been in recent years.

"In terms of the tax base, we expect a growth of about 2.6% or approximately \$567,000. This will help cover some of the increased operational cost of the county and the agencies and institutions that depend on county funding. But to cover the new debt service needed for the school capital improvements we will have to adjust the current tax rate by 2.35 cents bringing it to 26.85 cents," he said.

The school capital improvement projects include the new 5-6 school, expansion of East Franklin Elementary, a new building for the Early College High School

and the replacement of a roof and additional bathrooms at the Highlands School.

The total cost of the projects is \$25 million with debt service running a little over \$2 million a year.

"We are confident that even with the tax rate adjustment, Macon will still boast one of the lowest, if not the lowest property tax rates in the state," he said.

Furthermore, he said the proposed budget includes a fund balance appropriation of \$2.39 million which is less than the fund balance appropriation over the past two years.

Horton said sales tax collections will increase this year, but the county will lose 50% of its Article 44 ½-cent sales tax beginning Oct. 1 and the state will withhold a portion of the county's Article 39 ½-cent sales tax and remit it to the county's municipalities – Highlands and Franklin – to make up for the loss of Article 44 sales tax.

"This is a result of the new Medicaid relief plan approved by the General Assembly last year. The state will assume 50% of the county's Medicaid cost beginning July

•See TAXES page 18

Be aware of new stop sign

There is now a 3-way stop sign on the hill at the intersection of First and Oak streets. Motorists coming up the hill from Main Street used to have the right-of-way, but no more. Now everyone must stop.



... DISPLAY continued from page 1

tranceways would address clothing being hung on doors. Merchandise must also be taken in at night if applicable.

Businesses in B3, B4 and B5 would be subject to everything proposed in the B1 and B2 but with additional setback requirements – nothing can be displayed within 10 feet of the right-of-way. Planning Director Joe Cooley said that is generally considered the edge of the pavement of the

road.

It was also decided that owners who want to display merchandise outside must get a permit from the Planning Director.

"Obtaining a permit will educate merchants as to what's allowed to be displayed and what's not and about the regulations," said member Linda Clark.

The Town Board will hear the proposed ordinance at the May 21 meeting.

• HIGHLANDS EATERIES •

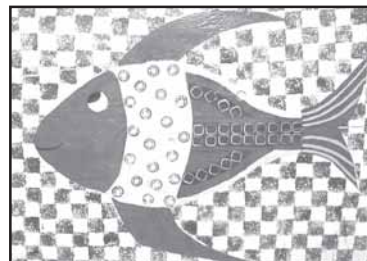
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• HIS & HERS •

Post Election Letdown

Those of you who are regular readers of this column already know that I have been working as John's campaign manager in his recent run for Congress. For the last several months, the dishes have piled up in the sink, the laundry has gotten done (but never made it to dressers and closets upstairs), I've missed my beloved Writers Group meetings on Thursdays, and subsisted on fast food and late dinners. Essentially, my life has been on hold. The good news is that now I have my life back. The bad news is that John lost the election.



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

them quoted as if they were the Gospel.

Some of these things were political. Some were personal. Among the more unsavory comments were snide remarks that John has greasy hair (not so, I insist on that one!) or that he wears cheap suits (I offered to send them photocopies of our Jos. A. Banks bills). While

it seemed perfectly normal for people not to agree with John, or to share his political ideas, the personal digs were particularly snide and hurt deeply. They even commented on my weight, hitting both the fiancée and the campaign manager with one low blow.

When people say nasty things about you, the natural instinct is to avoid those people. When you are put in the presence of those people over and over, it's wearing and depressing. Waking up at 2 a.m., turning real and imagined injustices over in my mind, got to be a normal occurrence. Popping Tums like Tic-tacs was another unpleasant side effect, the product of junk food on the campaign trail and debate nerves. I got used to looking at myself in the mirror, and seeing a tired, worn-out lady.

Now, as suddenly as it began, John and I are back to normal, or rather, we're getting back to getting back to normal. Which brings up the next nerve-racking issue – we have a wedding to organize in less than a month. The invitations are here, the church is booked, the caterer is chosen, we have a wonderful photographer, but so much remains to be done. The invitations have to be stuffed, addressed, and mailed; the menu has to be finalized; the flowers have to be ordered. We have our beautiful wedding rings (special thanks to Ted), but neither John nor I has a clue about a wedding license. Do we get ours in Highlands or Franklin? Do we need to get a blood test? Do we have to show proof of sanity?

Being a 57-year-old bride presents its own set of challenges. I've never been a particularly girly girl, but I don't want to look at our wedding photos and wince. My wedding dress is simple, but elegant. I'm not trying to look like a blushing 23-year-old, which would be beyond ridiculous. I have wedding shoes you can actually walk in without hobbling. My hair remains impossible – baby-fine and incapable of doing anything besides

•See HIS & HERS page 30

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• ANOTHER POV •

The slippery slope of personal infringement

Congress shall make no law respecting (preventing) the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble; and to petition the government for redress of grievances.

The above is the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, a document that is the cornerstone of American freedoms. Born of the tyranny of English rule and the oppression those early settlers lived under, the founding fathers created this incredible document that remains the envy of all those wishing to be free. Sometimes however, we begin to take for granted what others have earned for us.

In the late eighties, I returned to the U.S. after a five-year military assignment in Europe. My children were so young when we left the states that they had little memory of home, its customs, laws, and people for that matter. I had toyed with the idea of staying longer in Europe but decided to bring them home thinking it was time for the kids to get to know America better. We landed in Philadelphia, picked up the car at the port and we were immediately enroute to our new assignment in Chicago. Driving across the interstate I saw a sign, "Welcome to Ohio" and alerted the kids that we were entering a new state. My young daughter, so very familiar with European travel restrictions and the consequences of attempting to illegally cross a border, quickly yelled, "Where is my passport!" If I had lingering doubts about staying longer in Europe they all vanished in that moment.

If I want to, I can move to any state in the union. I have the freedom to live in the hustle and bustle of New York City, or in wild Las Vegas, or in the gentleness of Highlands, North Carolina. I am an American and I am free to be what I am wherever I choose to call home. I am free to speak my pleasure or displeasure of the state of the world without fear of government retaliation. In colonial Boston, men using sturdy wooden boxes used to ship soap, would stand in the streets on those soap boxes and profess their point of views to anyone who would listen (hence the birth of the phrase 'Get



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

down off your soap box.) With changes in technology, that basic freedom of speech has been extended to books, newspapers and the Internet.

After the tragedies of 9/11, the government revealed that the conspirators used the Internet and phone systems to coordinate their activities. Within a month a 245-page piece of legislation that most of our legislators approved

without reading, and 99 percent of us have no clue what it contained, was passed into law. This series of new government powers (National Security Letters) enables federal agencies to secretly gather phone, bank, and Internet records without a court order or a grand jury subpoena. Those that approve of this new power often say to me, "I'm not doing anything wrong so if it catches the bad guys, why not?" That logic just doesn't work for me. Listening to my personal calls? How many of us remember how angry we were as teenagers when we caught our mothers listening to our phone calls. We were really angry, we considered it a major violation of our personal lives — and she was our *mother*!

Just to add to the controversy there is a gag law on the execution of National Security Letters. It states that if you are issued a letter, and the government searches your home you cannot speak of it to anyone. Let me repeat that for effect. If the FBI were to come to your home, let's say because they got your name confused with another person's name, and searched your personal things, investigated your bank accounts, sought out what books you read at the library, found nothing, left, and you spoke of it to anyone you have committed a felony. How is that right?

Maybe I am making too much of this. How often could they have executed those letters anyway? It is about terrorism and terrorists, and how many could there have been in the U.S. to check? Ten? One hundred? Five Hundred? Try 143,000 between 2003 and 2005, and 49,000 last year.

People talk of the "Slippery Slope" of the infringement on personal freedoms, and that once it starts it could snowball.

• See ANOTHER POV page 26

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• COACH'S CORNER •

Hockey Fever: Catch it! (If you can find it)

Every year at about this time I find myself glued more and more to the television during the evening. It could be because this is the start of the lazy days of summer, but I also attribute this to the number of NBA and NHL playoff games that are televised during this time of year. While I have already attempted (failed miserably?) to convince you to tune into the NBA playoffs (which have been fantastic), now it is time for me to work some marketing genius for hockey.

(Quick NBA aside...did you realize that out of the four top players in the NBA Kobe, LeBron, Duncan and Chris Paul -- only two went to college and those two both attended...Wake Forest? Totally off subject, but still worth mentioning.)

I've been a fan of hockey for many years now, starting in high school with the Pittsburgh Penguins and continuing on to my college days with the Carolina Hurricanes. (Hey, don't judge me -- the Hurricanes didn't even exist when I was in high school, which contrary to my students' beliefs, wasn't all that long ago.)

Again, as with the NBA, my love of hockey does not really show up until the postseason, where there is no such thing as ties/OT losses, etc., that mar the regular season standings.

While the hockey regular season can be boring and confusing to casual fans, the actual hockey itself can also be watered down during the regular season grind. The caveat to this was during my college days when we could go to the Raleigh Entertainment and Sports Arena on weeknights and watch hockey on the cheap. As with almost any other sport (except the NBA, where regular season games are much more boring in person than they are at home) it was a terrific atmosphere live at the ESA (now the RBC center) and something that every sports fan should take the opportunity to go and see if you are ever in the RTP area. (Don't miss Ric Flair on the jumbotron after every goal -- WOOOOO!) Playoff hockey is a completely different animal than the regular season, where every mistake is magnified and the hitting is much harder. Also, with the playoffs, you also get the added bonus of sudden death overtime, which separates hockey from most of the other major sports. There is a



Ryan Potts
 tryanpotts@hotmail.com

major "edge of your seat" factor when regulation ends and you head into sudden death overtime -- and it certainly not quite like any other sport in that respect.

The only problem with playoff hockey, and the rest of the NHL at this point, is the lack of major television coverage. The hockey strike of several years ago destroyed much

of the NHL's presence in the United States media and has relegated the playoffs and regular season to the Versus network. It's not that Versus does a terrible job with the presentation, I actually like their decidedly non-ESPN style commentary and delivery, it is that the Versus network is not a major cable channel and therefore is unavailable to many parts of the population.

There have been a few games on NBC during the weekend afternoons, but that is not enough media presence to build back the audience that hockey should have in a country like the United States. Gary Bettman needs to seriously consider finding a way to get hockey back on ESPN or a major network if he wants his league to be a part of the major sports universe in the United States.

It is my hope that fans who are not as lucky or can not afford Versus can influence the NHL to return to a broadcast network or a major cable channel (like TNT or TBS) that can cater to a larger audience and increase the popularity of the NHL in the United States to previous levels.

'Child Safety Day' is at Highlands School May 31

On May 31, the Highlands Police Department and the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department will present "Child Safety Day" at Highlands School.

Activities will include a bicycle rodeo, carseat inspections, fingerprinting and the Fire Safety Trailer.

During the event and after, the departments will be accepting new and gently used bicycle helmets and child booster seats.

• CONSERVATIVE POV •

When will I ever learn?

Every once in a while, when I need a good chuckle, I go to the Real Clear Politics website and look at the current poll results for President Bush's job approval and Congressional job approval. Considering the fact that Bush seems to be hated by everybody over the age of three and is the principal target of the worldwide media, one would not think his rating would be very high. Well, it isn't. It's 29%.

Congress, on the other hand, goes about its business, sending out tax rebate checks, bailing out real estate speculators, bailing out greedy members of the financial community, subsidizing fat-cat farmers, and funding entitlements out the wazoo, not to mention earmark spending intended to please everyone of voting age. One would assume that Congress's compassion and generosity would earn then high marks in the approval department. It doesn't. 22%. Chuckle.

Frankly, I don't give a hoot what those polls say. As long as there is no shortage of M&Ms and the U of Miami baseball team remains #1 in the country, that's the only poll I'm interested in.

Going on to meatier matters, the bimbo front remains eerily quiet. That is, with the exception of Hannah Montana or Miley Cyrus or what ever her name is. The most recent entrant into our stable of morons (filthy rich, but morons nonetheless) was pictured in *Vanity Fair*, scantily clad (very scantily) in sensuous poses, at least one of which was in the arms of her father. Not long ago, I mentioned the possibility of Hannah/Miley being considered as a potential member of our bimbo Hall of Shame. However, at that time, she really hadn't done anything shameful, and I hoped she wouldn't join her twisted sisters. When will I learn?

I was not surprised to hear that North Carolina Governor Mike Easley gave Hillary a last-minute endorsement; were you? While most other notables are coming out for Obama, good old Mike bucks the trend and says Hill fills the bill.

Now anything but a win or narrow loss in the NC primary would pretty well nail her coffin shut, thus, she's desperate. What do the Clintons do when up against the wall? No, not that. They buy endorsements. I'll bet Mike was selling.



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

While we're on the subject of NC politics, The libs were whining a few months ago (I suppose a few conservatives were, too) about our primary votes not counting since the races were always decided by the first week in May. Surprise! Who saw that coming? While I'm writing this on May 3rd (road trip ahead) and the NC primary has not yet been held, our votes still won't count. With the

R's race decided, as usual, and the D's contest still too close to call, our votes still won't matter a wit. Well, that's not quite accurate. If Hillary does win a few super delegates it won't be enough to head off a bloody convention, in my opinion.

And now, some good news. We're starting to receive our rebate checks. Whoopee! That's the good news, I guess. The bad news is, aside from making a few folks briefly feel better (this is not a bad thing), spending money the government doesn't have just deepens the national debt, additionally weakening the dollar, which was just now trying to put the brakes on its recent free-fall. I thought that maybe I could afford one more trip to Europe if the currencies closed the gap. Congress talking about a second stimulus package puts that trip in serious jeopardy. So much for good news.

In an effort to be fair and balanced, I must give the Federal Reserve Board credit for saving our financial system. When they collaborated with JP Morgan Chase to save Bear Stearns' bacon, a major catastrophe was averted. That event marked the bottom of the stock market's slide and brightened the outlook for the general attitude concerning the economy. So, even though the Fed created the mess by taking interest rates down too far and keeping them there too long, it looks like they are "getting it" and taking creative measures to diffuse the situation.

The recession the economists had said was unavoidable seems to have been avoided. Even though it's just a word, it's a word that puts some in a catatonic state while I, on the other hand, plunged my guts out in the market when that talk started. I have learned over the decades that when the "experts" agree, I go the other way. So far, so good.

Th-th-th-that's all folks!

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

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American Idol is starting to wane a bit, but it still holds the lion's share of the viewing audience when it's on television. It really is a fantastic concept, a great way to discover hidden talent. People who a few years ago were virtually unknown in the recording industry — Kelly Clarkson, Clay Aiken, Carrie Underwood — have become household names.

The unfortunate thing about Idol is that it has unleashed a plethora of spin-offs. Everybody wants to go from an unknown nobody to a superstar in meteoric fashion. Andy Warhol's comment about everybody having their 15-minutes of world fame is actually taking shape with the numerous shows giving so many a shot in front of a national audience.

When it comes to Christianity, we tend to make heroes (I'm intentionally avoiding the term "idol" due to its sinful connotations per the Second Commandment) out of Christian leaders. Preachers, reformers, servants, and martyrs have all played influential and courageous roles in keeping the Christian alive and growing. As a United Methodist, I cannot imagine what American Methodism would look like without the thousands of miles traveled by Francis Asbury. Baptists are likewise indebted to Roger Williams. Lutherans are indebted to their namesake, the great reformer, Martin Luther. Presbyterians are indebted to men named John: Calvin, Knox, [Jonathan] Edwards, and Witherspoon. Episcopalians may strongly disagree about the leadership of Bishop John Shelby Spong, but they owe a debt of gratitude to founding Bishops William White and Samuel Seabury.

Testimonies have been given and books written about the influential witness of Christians like Mother Teresa, Billy Graham, Lottie Moon, and Corrie Ten Boom. I personally have been moved to tears by the sermons and writings of Christian preachers who stood their ground against the horrors of Hitler. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Martin Niemoller, and Paul Schneider, to name a few. I would encourage you to investigate the powerful testimony of Schneider who preached through prison bars to deliver four-minute sermons. That was how long he had to preach each Sunday before Nazi guards at Buchenwald would enter his cell and club him until he was unconscious.

What I fear is that we forget that heroic acts of

•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: Dinner 5 p.m.-6 p.m.; 6 p.m. programs
for all students; 6:15 p.m., Adult Bible Study

Thursdays: Women's Bible Study 10 a.m.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Rev. Brian Sullivan – Rector: 526-2968
Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School

10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

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

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

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

4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry

Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice

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

10:30 A.M. Daughters of the King

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

FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN

Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor • 828-369-7977

Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m.
(nursery provided)

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

Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by 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 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

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

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell

2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741

Sundays: Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Adult discussion
group 9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion – 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th sunday of the month.

LITTLE CHURCH OF THE WILDWOOD

Services at the Church in the Wildwood in
Horse Cove. Memorial Day through Labor Day

Call Kay Ward at 743-5009

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

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130

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

Choir – 6 p.m.

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871

Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.

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

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Rev. Tien, Priest

Parish office, 526-2418

Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.

Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.

(through last Saturday of October)

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore

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

Evening Worship – 6 p.m.

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

For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Wayne Price

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

828-369-3633

Lay Led Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

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

... BEST continued from page 1

teacher in me when I was very young – she made me promise to get a college degree and use it to make the world better. In my mind, being named Teacher of the Year is a tribute to her and my parents who still have chalk-stained closet doors in my old bedroom where I used to teach my imaginary students when I was young.”

Hedden has been teaching for 11 years. She spent a year at East Franklin Elementary and then transferred to Highlands School in 1998, where she has taught 5th grade for six of her 11 years. “I have tried my hand at 2nd through 4th grades but found that my heart belongs in 5th grade,” she said.

Coming full circle, Hedden walks the same hallways she did as a child; the words and lessons taught by teachers past still echo in her head. “I strive to keep their teaching styles alive as I present lessons and activities to my students. I love being able to give back to our students what I was given during my years as a student at this fine school,” she said.

It's hard to name one memorable or rewarding experience, but she said being in the same school with her students until they graduate is awesome. “Our school is so unique because we get to be a part of their graduation and watch them grow up,” she said. “The students really appreciate that and it is an honor that I enjoy very much. I now have previous students who are adults and it's fantastic to see them and to feel their continued respect and admiration.”

Hedden says she has seen a shift in education in the 11 years she's been teaching.

“The future of our country along with education right now is a bit uncertain due to the shaky economy. However, I feel that the public education system will be fine if the recruitment of creative and resourceful teachers is successful. Teachers in the near

future will continue to be faced with an increase in testing accountability. I hope to see a shift towards more authentic forms of assessment such as portfolios along with the standardized testing so that all children can show growth,” she said.

Being a part of the education process at Highlands School makes the education experience unique both for teachers and students, she says.

“Having students K-12 in the same school helps students feel like a giant family. The younger children are able to have role models to look up to and the older children are reminded of how special they are in the eyes of the little guys. As mentioned in the opening pages of our most recent yearbook, Highlands School is priceless,” she said.

As far as the future goes, Hedden is content just where she is among family and friends, young and old at Highlands School.

“As a mother of a 3rd and 6th grader, I plan to watch them grow up and graduate from our school. I hope to encourage them to reach for their dreams and I want to help them do that, if possible. I plan to continue my teaching career at this school and to continue doing consulting work for curriculum-based projects,” she said. “I also would love to further my education and earn a master's degree one day, but right now I am happy and very busy trying to help my own children and students capture the love of learning.”

Gail Garland has been working at Highlands School as a Teacher Assistant for 23 years. She's assisted in various classrooms and is now the Media Center Assistant.

“It is an absolute honor to have been selected as Teacher Assistant of the Year by my peers,” she said.

– Kim Lewicki

... SMOKEHOUSE continued from page 1

ply conditions that ensure the use will be in harmony with the adjoining area,” he said.

Rethorst said if the board didn't apply restrictions, it would be letting the town down especially if the restaurant turns into a really popular spot until 1 or 2 a.m.

Town Commissioner Buz Dotson, who was in the audience and who lives near the restaurant, said he appreciated the board's concern.

“I appreciate your sensitivity about the potential noise because I live in close proximity. Quiet is nice and business is a good thing but the two need to work together,” he said.

The town has a noise ordinance which prohibits loud noise after 11 p.m. and amplified music isn't allowed outside without a permit from the mayor, so aside for deck restrictions, the board felt all issues were covered.

In the end, the board voted unani-

mously to issue the SUP on the condition that the eating and drinking on the deck cease at 11 p.m. and that a survey delineating property boundaries, parking spaces and buildings be submitted to the Zoning Administrator prior to issuance of the zoning certificate.

The restaurant will have 93 seats, a new kitchen, bathroom, and bar area. The parking lot will be resurfaced with gravel and the required 36 parking spots will be delineated with timbers similar to those in the ...on the Verandah parking lot.

The ingress and egress will be one-way off U.S. 64 with the ingress on the Franklin side of the building and the egress on the Highlands side.

A typical barbecue restaurant menu is planned with special “fried fish” and “fried chicken” nights.

Hyland said he hopes to open the restaurant in July.

– Kim Lewicki

SMOKE FREE DINING IN MACON COUNTY

Youth exposed to secondhand smoke breathe in 4,000 chemicals, at least 50 of which are associated with or known to cause cancer. The Franklin High School's Teens Against Tobacco Use (TATU) and the Macon County Public Health Center would like to say thank you to the following restaurants for providing a 100% smoke free indoor environment for our teens.

Angel Medical Center Cafeteria
Arby's
B & C Barbeque
Benita's Whistlestop Café
Big Mama's Pizza House
Bi-Lo Deli
Blimpie
Boone Thai Restaurant
Brick Oven Pizza
Buck's Coffee Café
Burger King
Café 460
Cajun Connection Café
Carabella's Tea House
Cedar's Café & Bakery
Chef and His Wife
Cowee Convenience and Deli
Cyprus Restaurant
Dairy Queen
Don Leon's Deli Café
Fat Buddies Ribs & BBQ
Fireside Inn Restaurant
Fortune House
Franklin Flea Market Snack Bar
Franklin Skateway
Fressers Eatery
Frog and Owl Mtn Bistro
Gardenia's
Golden China
Gringo's
Happy Garden Chinese Restaurant
Hardee's
Havana Bistro
Highlands Back Room Deli
Highlands Wine & Cheese Shop
Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Cafeteria
Hill Top Grill
Inn at Half-Mile Farm
Joe's Country Café
Junction Café
Kelsey House Restaurant
Kentucky Fried Chicken
La Poblana
Lakeside Restaurant
Lighthouse Restaurant
Little Caesar's Pizza
Log Cabin Steakhouse

Lucio's
Madison's Restaurant
Main Street Inn
McDonalds
Monte Alban
Motor Co. Grill
Mountain Feast
Ms. Lois'
Oak Street Cafe
Papa's Pizza of Franklin
Peking Gourmet Chinese Restaurant
Pescados Highland Burritos
Pizza Hut
Pizza Place of Highlands
Restaurant at Mill Creek
Rib Shack
Ristorante Paoletti
Seasons at Summit Inn
Shoney's of Franklin
Skyline Lodge Restaurant
Snack Shack
Sports Page Sandwich Shoppe
Stamey's Café
Stillwater Fish Camp
Subway (Highlands Rd)
Subway (Westgate Plaza)
Subway of Highlands
Sunset Restaurant
Sweettreats
Sweetwater Grill
Taco Bell
Tallent's Steak Barn
The Boiler Room
The Dessert Factory
The Gazebo Creekside Café
The Pizzeria
The Scaly Grill
The Spa Café
Vito's Pizza and Indoor Patio
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• HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL NEWS •

Nearly two dozen members of the Southeastern Association of Clinical Microbiologists gathered at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital April 25 for their spring meeting for North Carolina. SEACM members from Georgia and South Carolina were also in attendance at the day-long event, during which Joseph M. Campos, PhD, DABMN, FAAM, director of the Microbiology and Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory at the Children's National Medical Center in Washington (shown above) was the featured speaker. Other speakers on the program were Lori W. Campos, MT (ASCP), microbiology specialist with Simens Diagnostics, and Shirley Adams, ME (ASCP), SM, CLS (NCA) CL Dir (NCA), SM (AAM), peripheral laboratory supervisor at AnMed Health Medical Center in Anderson, SC.


SEACM meet at hospital



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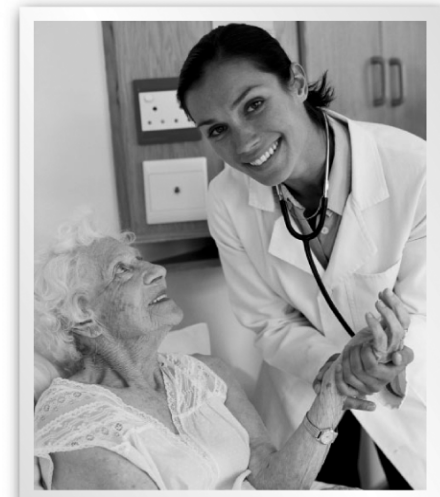


We're One For All...And All For One.

Every May, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital joins hospitals across the country to observe National Hospital Week. Held in the month in which Florence Nightingale was born, National Hospital Week helps to remind us of the tremendous dedication and high-quality care our health care professionals provide seven days a week, 365 days a year. From our maintenance staff that clears ice in freezing winter winds, our vigilant cleaning staff that keeps our infection rates down, our nurses and technicians who make sure you're treated like a neighbor, not a number, to our physicians who have spent years studying better ways to diagnose and treat disease, we know it takes everyone to provide our patients the exceptional level of care they deserve.

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital wants to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to the more than 300 full and part-time employees who make our organization a unique place.

We are truly one for all...and all for one.

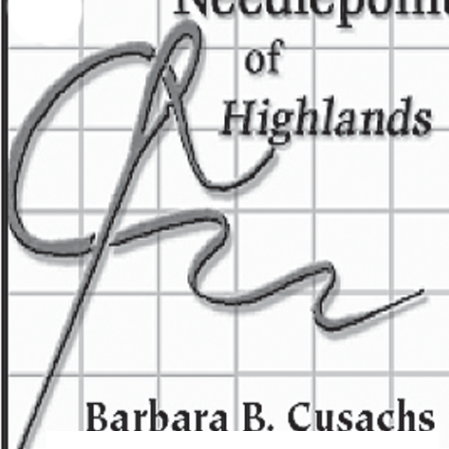


Highlands-Cashiers
H O S P I T A L

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Observing National Hospital Week May 11-17

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Monday-Saturdays
10 a.m.-4 p.m.



Tim Wheeler, field service engineer from G.E. Healthcare's Asheville office, makes final checks on the new x-ray and digital fluoroscopy equipment recently installed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. The hospital replaced the x-ray equipment that was installed when the new hospital opened back in 1993.

Hospital offers Digital Fluoroscopy

The latest in fluoroscopy technology is now available at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, thanks to approximately \$350,000 in new x-ray equipment.

The hospital recently replaced its original x-ray equipment, installed in 1993 when the new hospital first opened, with an all new unit that features digital fluoroscopy as well conventional x-rays capability. The new equipment, a Precision 500 D system manufactured by G.E. Healthcare, is already in operation and serving patients.

"Due to problems with the old fluoroscopy equipment in recent months, the hospital has had to send patients needing procedures such as barium swallow studies to other facilities," said hospital President and CEO Ken Shull. "So we are very pleased to again offer diagnostic fluoroscopy here at the hospital. This is an important tool for all our physicians, but it's particularly vital now that the hospital has a full-time gastroenterologist."

Fluoroscopy uses x-rays projected onto a special screen that allows physicians to view parts of the body in actual, "real-time." It's particularly useful for seeing how contrast mediums flow through the upper and lower portions of the digestive tract. The digital capability of the new equipment will allow physicians to capture still digital images for later study at various points during the procedure, and to view those "shots" immediately to see if the images captured contain the desired information.

While those still images could be captured with conventional fluoroscopy, using x-ray film, there's a delay while those films are developed and checked. That prolongs the procedure for the patient, as well as making more work for technicians. Now those delays will be eliminated.

While the GE unit also does conventional x-rays better than the one it replaced, Laura Ammons RT, manager of the hospital's Radiology Department, says it is really the return of fluoroscopy that will have the

biggest impact on patient care. That's because the hospital already had a second, relatively new x-ray machine to fall back on for conventional procedures.

"It's really great to have fluoroscopy back again. We don't have a huge number of patients that need these kinds of studies, but for those who do, this is going to be much more convenient," she added.

In addition to fluoroscopy, the hospital's radiology department has another important capability – that of being able to accept orders for procedures from physicians who are out of state.


Last August during a routine inspection, the Radiation Protection Section of the North Carolina Division of Environment and Health, told the hospital it could no longer perform diagnostic radiology procedures such as mammograms, ultrasounds, x-rays, or CT scans on patients unless those procedures were ordered by a physician practicing in North Carolina. To do so would be a violation of state law, state officials said.

"We serve quite a number of patients who live across the state line, or who spend the summers here but have physicians in another state. Not being able to honor orders from those physicians for radiology procedures was not only inconvenient for many patients, it took much needed revenue away from the hospital," observed Shull. "We worked with the Western N.C. Health Network and the N.C. Hospital Association to try to persuade state officials to change their position on this. Thankfully, they did."

For one thing, results of all procedures performed locally are routinely reviewed by a physician radiologist licensed in North Carolina, before being sent on to the out-of-state physician who ordered the procedure. After virtually six months of negotiations, the state agreed this past March to let hospitals around the state resume performing such tests.

Highlands First Presbyterian Church
and
The Music Department of Western Carolina University
present

A Faculty Showcase Concert
featuring
Gamelan



Low Tech Ensemble
WCU Music Department Faculty and Students

Sunday, May 18 at 4:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church
Main Street, Highlands, North Carolina

No Admission Charge

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 12

Christian faith are quietly lived out by ordinary, unassuming people across the globe. We are so inspired by the beautiful voice of George Beverly Shea or Sandy Patty, but the most beautiful voice is that of a 15 year-old girl singing "Jesus Loves the Little Children" to her infant son somewhere in the hills of Kentucky. We are amazed at the generous giving of businessmen and corporations for Christian missions, but what is even more amazing is how a father out in Idaho is able feed a family of five, pay his rent and bills, and still tithe on minimum wage. We may admire those who make wise investments and are always humble enough to declare that all their blessings are from the Lord, but what is even more admirable is an elderly couple who stretches their paltry retirement check to pay for food and the high costs of medicines.

The Bible is primarily the story of God working through the lives of ordinary people. Moses was an abandoned infant, a stutterer, and a murderer, yet God used him to lead His people out Egypt. Ruth was a humble Moabite, a widow nonetheless, and yet an ancestress to Jesus of Nazareth. David was a scrawny herder of sheep who became the great leader of God's people. Peter, a fisherman by trade, but used by God to lead a throng of 3,000 to the Lord at Pentecost. Dorcas, Esther, Bartholomew, Barnabas, Naomi, even Mary and Joseph — humble and ordinary people, all.

So, you and I are included on that list. Trouble comes only to those who start to think too highly of themselves and lose sight of God's will for the sake of their own stardom. That's why the one thing that makes an ordinary person a servant — great or small...a Mother Teresa or struggling mother in Kentucky...a Billy Graham or a poor mechanic in Idaho — the one thing that makes us all servants, humble and lowly, is prayer. And to that, may we all say, "Amen."

Community Meeting for Middle and High School students, parents and concerned citizens of Highlands at Highlands School June 5 at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda:

Information about what young people are confronted with these days.

There will be speakers who will discuss

- youth driving under the influence – Cassie Carpenter
- Teen suicide – Retired N.C. Highway Patrol Sgt. Fred Davis
- Counselors Patti Tiberi SMCC and Thomas Jessup HSCC



... LETTERS continued from page 2

Each week I could find something in someone's column in our newspaper that lights my emotion in a negative way, but out of respect for the columnist and loyalty to the paper, I keep my thoughts to myself. Everyone else is fare game, as everyone who has ever read my stuff knows. I guess it's part of a journalistic code that is tradition.

It is sad you allowed that to happen to a fine man like Don. I happen to know he was angered and hurt by Mr. Eberz's remarks. What purpose does that serve? I disagree with some of what he writes also, but, again, out of respect for him, I hold my thoughts.

Fred Wooldridge

Highlands Police kicks off "Click It or Ticket" enforcement mobilization this week.

**Extended hours to focus on all
unbuckled motorists — day and night**

May Day at Highlands School

As the last days of school approach, students look forward to a change of routine. That includes award ceremonies, May Day games and the distribution and crucial signing of yearbooks! Yearbooks and May Day activities were May 9. Other important dates are: High School Athletic Banquet at the Rec Park at 6 p.m. on May 20; Middle School Athletic Banquet at 6 p.m. on May 22; High School Academic Banquet at 6 p.m. at PAC on May 27; Middle School graduation on June 9; last day of school on June 10; High School Scholarship Assembly at 9 a.m. on June 13 and High School graduation on June 14.

Photos by Elizabeth Gordon

... HOSPITAL continued from page 21

fully not to need any contract nurses by August.

Shull reported that a surprise inspection by a representative of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services found no issues with the way the hospital is currently operating. In fact, the surveyor was very complimentary of the hospital, he added. He also pointed out that other North Carolina hospitals, most of them much larger than this one, including two in Western North Carolina, have not been as fortunate in recent months.

New x-ray and fluoroscopy equipment is now up and running in the hospital's radiology department, Shull said. Due to problems with the previous equipment, the hospital has been without fluoroscopy for several months. Training on the new, state-of-the-art equipment is already under way, and fluoroscopy services are expected to resume May 1.

Finally, Shull said that now that the hospital has general surgeons and a gastroenterologist, the hospital plans to focus its physician recruiting efforts on finding three new primary care doctors to serve the area.

**Summit One
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By
Jane Smithers

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BASEBALL PARK ON HWY 64 E
(NORTH OF N 4TH & HIGHWAY STREETS)

... TAXES continued from page 7

1. This year, 60% of the county's average daily membership funds for school capital improvements were taken by the state to help offset its cost of assuming 25% of the county's share of the Medicaid program last Oct. 1."

Funds invested by the county will earn \$1 million in interest next fiscal year. "This is equivalent to over a penny on the tax rate and helps reduce the property tax burden for everyone," said Horton.

While preparing the proposed budget,

Horton said the goal was to live within the available resources and only consider additional taxes to cover the public school construction program. He said that left a \$6 million gap. "When we began this budget process, we had about \$48 million in requests and only \$42 million in available funds. Those are the kinds of challenges we face when trying to fund vital and essential county services with a limited revenue source."

• See TAXES page 29

• A REVIEW •

"The Last Night of Ballyhoo"

What fun it is to watch the Highlands Community Players evolve as an acting and production group while cultivating Highlands' local talent.

The current production, "The Last Night of Ballyhoo" on stage at the Performing Arts Center is a pleasure. The set — impeccably designed and constructed by Kat Evans and her crew — depicts an upscale home of the 1930s — furnishings, draperies, colors and all. The cast is familiar except for Matthew McClellan, a junior at Highlands School who debuted in the recent high school play "Get Bill Shakespeare Off the Stage" produced by HCP, and Laura Miller.

Miller, who portrayed Lala Levy, brought experience to the stage that shows. McClellan blossoms as the spoiled, rich, pompous, infuriating Peachy Weil, complete with red hair.

"Ballyhoo" is set in Atlanta in 1939 the week "Gone with the Wind" premieres, while in Europe Hitler invades Poland. However, the young women of the Freitag household are more concerned with "Ballyhoo," the Southern Jewish equivalent of a Cotillion where young people are brought together in hopes of finding eligible "mates." The upcoming event seems to be

the last chance for daughter Lala to meet a potential husband, as she is a bit of a dreamer and social misfit with no escort for the party.

Becky Schilling shines as the arrogant, snobby, unrelenting matriarch of the extended family, all of which have purposefully forgotten their Jewish heritage for Atlanta society. As Lala's mother, Schilling reigns like the stereotypical, frivolous, older southern belle whose only interests are all things shallow accompanied with pomp and circumstance.

The arrival of a "yankee" Jew who hails from an Eastern European Jewish family exemplifies the social pecking order among the Jewish population. The Atlanta Freitags are German Jews. Joe Farkas, played by Colin Long is an "Other" Jew — a Jew whose heritage is not from Germany and whose American roots are in New York. He reminds them of the significance of their Jewish heritage.

The production is entertaining as well as enlightening. Cast well, performed well and worth seeing, it continues through Sunday at PAC. Evening performances are at 7:30. The Sunday matinee is at 2:30. Call 526-8084 for tickets. This is community theater with a very professional air. — **KL**



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An ancient tree on the lawn of the First Baptist Church came down roots and all during the wind and rain storm that pummeled Macon County Sunday night.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

Wind storm ravages plateau

High weekend winds and falling trees left about 2,600 customers without power in Duke Energy's five southwestern NC counties.

Storm winds that picked up about midnight Sunday hit the Cashiers area hardest. About 1,700 customers were without power there.

Other outages included Graham County with 344 outages; the rest of Jackson County with 183; Swain with 207; and Macon with 161. The 1,729 square mile mountain terrain of the Duke Energy-Nan-

tahala Area contains more than a dozen broken poles.

Highlands Town Engineer Lamar Nix said his crews began trying to repair downed lines at 10 p.m. Sunday night with work continuing throughout throughout the night and Monday and Tuesday. "As soon as we'd get a line fixed the winds would knock them out again," he said. Gusts up to 50 mph were registered.

Nix said about 160 customers experienced power outages in Highlands.

Audubon Society puts Highlands on the map



On Saturday, May 17, local organizations were honored at Sunset Rocks by Audubon Society NC for preserving wildlife habitat on the Highlands Plateau. Honored were Highlands Mayor Donald Mullen, Director of the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust Dr. Gary Wein, USFS District Ranger Mike Wilkins, Cindy Trevathan of the Land Stewards of the Highlands Plateau, Director of the Highlands Nature Center Patrick Brannon, and Executive Director of the Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance Mr. David Bates



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Now on staff at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and practicing with full-time general surgeons F. Augustus Dozier, MD, FACS, and William J. Noell, Jr., MD, FACS, at **Mountain Medical & Surgical Group**, Dr. Carter is board certified in internal medicine and gastroenterology. He completed medical school, internship, residency and fellowship training at the Medical College of Virginia. During his fellowship in Gastroenterology, he was a lead instructor of the G.I. Division.

Dr. Carter was on staff for six years at the renowned Greenbrier Clinic in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, before spending 15 years in private practice, primarily in LaGrange, Georgia. For more than 10 years, he served as Chief of Gastroenterology at West Georgia Medical Center in LaGrange.

A Fellow of the American College of Physicians, Dr. Carter is trained in the most advanced procedures and technologies to diagnose and treat a range of gastrointestinal conditions. **To schedule an appointment with Dr. Carter, call (828) 526-2371.**

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• HIGHLANDS-HOSPITAL NEWS •

Board of Directors April Summary

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

- April's board meeting began with an education segment presented by Skip Taylor, director of Community Relations. He recapped many of the very positive developments taking place at the hospital, such as the return of general surgery and gastroenterology, as well as new technology and new services, such as an all-new sleep study program that will begin soon. Now that seasonal residents are beginning to return, the hospital will be launching an advertising campaign and utilizing other marketing in the months ahead to let area residents know about these positive developments taking place at the hospital, he said

- Earle Mauldin, who was representing the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation, presented a proposed resolution designed to clean-up some legal loose ends in the bylaws and articles of incorporation of the Foundation, as well as a list of three nominees to serve on the Foundation's board. Hospital board members unanimously approved both recommendations.

- Finance Committee Chairman Charlie Sheehan and hospital CFO Mike Daiken reported that March financial figures showed positive trends for the hospital itself, but a loss in the area of physician clinics — due in large part to startup costs for new surgeons and the new gastroenterologist. Through the first six months of the hospital's fiscal year, revenue was up 13 percent for the hospital itself. The board expressed concern over a steep rise in bad debt, something being seen by hospitals across the state and around the nation, due in part to the rise in the number of the uninsured and current economic conditions.

- During the Governance Committee report, Chairman Don Mullen reminded board members of the board's upcoming annual retreat, set for June 2 at The Mountain Retreat and Conference Center in Highlands. That retreat will feature an address by Bill Pully, president of the NC Hospital Association, as well as remarks by Gary Bowers, president of the Western North Carolina Health Network. There will also be a presentation on financing for Critical Access Hospital. Dr. Mullen also said the governance committee is working on nominations for new members of the board. The terms of four members will expire this fall.

He also reminded hospital board members of a special meeting May 12 of trustees and directors of all the 16 member hospitals that comprise the WNC Health Network. Nationally-known expert on hospital governance Barry Bader will be the

guest speaker at the Asheville gathering.

- Julian Franklin, chairman of the Program and Facilities Committee, reported that the his committee expects to receive an architectural rendering of the proposed new Cashiers Medical Building within the next few weeks. The board also discussed the need for affordable employee housing in the area.

- During the report of the Performance Improvement Committee, Vice President for Operations and Compliance Officer Frank Leslie gave the board an overview of performance indicators in a number of key areas tracked on a quarterly basis. He said patient surveys of emergency room patients, outpatients, inpatients, and cardiac rehabilitation participants all showed excellent results with no issues needing follow up by the PI Committee. The "dashboard" of quality indicators being tracked showed that the vast majority are fine. However, Leslie said hospital managers need to increase their focus on ensuring that documentation on employee education and periodic evaluations are kept current.

- In his report, President and CEO Ken Shull told the board that the hospital's two general surgeons (William J. Noell, Jr, MD, FACS, and F. Augustus Dozier, MD, FACS), have performed a significant number of both emergency and scheduled surgeries during the last several month, and both surgeons are pleased to be working at the hospital and with the performance of the surgical department. Although the season has not yet arrived, the number of cases continues to hover at or above anticipated levels, reaching a maximum of 11 procedures in one unusually busy week.

New gastroenterologist Richard F. Carter, MD, FACP, has also gotten off to a busy start, Shull said. Referrals have poured in from the primary care physicians in the area, causing Carter to extend office hours to five instead of just four days per week. Although he did not anticipate scheduling endoscopies in his first week, Shull said Dr. Carter was glad to respond to the needs of patients, performing approximately a half dozen in that first week. Still more endoscopies were performed in the hospital's dedicated G.I. suite the following week. "We are very pleased with Dr. Carter and he seems to be very pleased with our folks and with how things are going," Shull told the board. Based on several comments, Shull said patients are also very pleased to have gastroenterology back, and with Dr. Carter particularly.

Shull said nurse staffing continues to improve. The hospital has significantly reduced the number of "traveler" nurses he has had to employ. The number of travelers is down to two, and the hospital expects to be down to one by mid May, and hope-

•See HOSPITAL page 17

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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going

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

• 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.

FREE WCU Faculty Showcase Sunday, May 18 at First Presbyterian to feature 'gamelan'



Highlands First Presbyterian Church and the Music Department of Western Carolina University present "A Faculty Showcase Concert" featuring Gamelan, a low tech ensemble of WCU Music Department faculty and students.

The performance takes place Sunday, May 18 at 4 p.m. at the church and it's free.

A gamelan is an orchestra of tuned metal percussion instruments characteristic of Java, Bali, Malaysia and other island cultures off the coast of Southeast Asia. Each gamelan has its own name, its own tuning system and its own distinctive personality.

WCU's gamelan's name means "Venerable Blue Mountain," which was selected as tribute to its new home: the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina.

It was built in 2002 by Tentrem Sarwanto of Surakarta, Java. In residence at Western Carolina since January 2003, Gamelan Gunung biru is one of about 150 gamelans in the U.S.

The instruments of the gamelan degung are boning – a one 3-octave set of pot-shaped gongs used to lay elaborations of melody; gongageng – a large hanging gong used to mark end of cycles; jenglong – a set of 6 horizontal gongs used to outline the "nuclear melody;" kendang and ketipung – a pair of double-headed drums used to keep time; saron – two 2 1/2-octave metallophones used for melodic elaborations; demung – a saron pitched an octave lower than the saron panerus; slentem – a one-octave keyboard with tuned resonators; suling – a small bamboo flute used to ornament melody or create counter melody.

The Low Tech Ensemble performs on all of these gamelans on the WCU campus and around the region.

• 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.

• Register now 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.

• 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.

Mondays

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

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

Tuesdays

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

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

• Weight Watchers meets at the High-

lands 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.

Wednesdays

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

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

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

Every Third Wednesday

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

1st & 3rd Thursdays

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

Thursdays

• At the Nature Center, Zahner Conservation Lecture Series 7 p.m., 12 and up: An evening seminar series featuring leading scientists, historians, writers and artists on a variety of environmental topics (schedule available at www.wcu.edu/hbs).

• Live Music with Brad Vroon at Fire-side Restaurant in Wright Square from 6-9 p.m. with Tapas Menu.

Fridays

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

Friday & Saturday

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

Saturdays

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

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

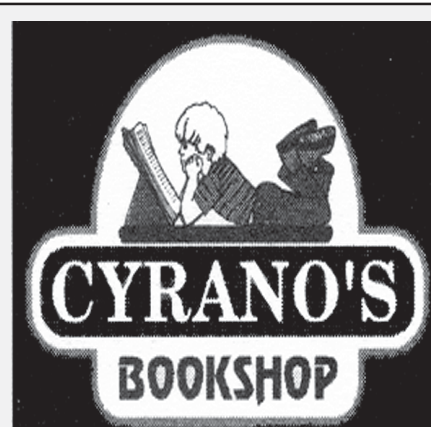
• Children's classes ongoing at Bascom-Louise Gallery – cost is \$5 per student.

Sundays

• Live Music with Brad Vroon at Fire-side Restaurant in Wright Square, noon-3 p.m.

Through Thursday, June 12

• Dovetail and Nail: Southern Furniture Exhibition is held at The Bascom.



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Upcoming Book Signings

May 18

1-3 pm

Joshilyn Jackson

The Girl Who Stopped Swimming

May 31

11 a.m.-1 pm

Roland Mesnier

All the Presidents' Pastries

May 31

3-5 pm

Melanie Bowles

Hoof Prints

June 19

3-5 pm

Sandra Mackey

Mirror of the Arab World

June 28

1-3 pm

David Bajo

The 351 Books of Irma Acuri

July 26

1-3 pm

Charles Martin

author of

Chasing Fireflies,

When Crickets Cry, May

August 9

1-3 pm

Charles F. Price

Nor the Battle to the Stron

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Admission is free. A members-only opening reception will be held May 10; to become a member, call The Bascom at (828) 526-4949. Art center hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

Friday-Sunday, May 15-May 18

• HCP's The Last Night of Ballyhoo at PAC. 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 Sunday matinee. Call 526-8084 for tickets.

Thursday, May 15

• Highlands School PTO meeting at 6 p.m.

Friday & Saturday, May 16-17

• At Highlands Wine & Cheese Shop at Falls on Main, an art show by local artist Tom Roddy from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Friday, May 16

• Join friends of Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust for a tour of the beautiful "Smith Gardens." A leisurely stroll through Barbara and Richard Smith's beautiful gardens. Contact HCLT by May 15th to sign up & for info: 526.1111, Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net.

Saturday, May 17

• Highlands-Cashiers free health screenings, for residents of Cashiers, Glenville, and Sapphire at Blue Ridge School.

• The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society will have a birding field trip to the Lonesome Valley development in Cashiers on May 17. Meet at the public parking area next to the Highlands Town Hall at 7:30 a.m. if you want to car pool to Cashiers.

For those in Cashiers, meet at Lonesome Valley at 8 a.m. Call Edwin Pool at 526-2775 or Romney Bathurst at 526-1939 for additional information.

• The Summit Charter School will be sponsoring a 1 Mile Fun Run and 5-K Race Saturday.

• The Highlands Memorial Post 370 of the American Legion meeting at the Highlands Civic Center for 9 a.m. pancake breakfast followed by meeting. All members and eligible veterans are invited for fellowship and support. Call Ed Jones at 743-0986.

Sunday-Wednesday, May 18-21

• Coweeta Baptist Church Spring Revival with Rev. Eddie Dietz and special music at 7 p.m. 780 Coweeta Church Road.

Sunday, May 18

• Joshilyn Jackson, best-selling author of "Gods in Alabama" and "Between, Georgia," will be at Cyrano's Bookshop on Main Street from 1-3 p.m.

• Highlands First Presbyterian Church and the music department of Western Carolina University present "A Faculty Showcase Concert" featuring Gamelan, a low tech ensemble of WCU music department faculty and students at 4 p.m. at the church and it's free.

• At First Baptist Church, Blue Ridge Concert at 6:30 p.m. The men who comprise BLUE RIDGE have developed a style of singing that has become popular with all who hear them. The group has 22 recordings to its credit with a total of over 220 songs. 9 of these songs have been released nationally in

Highlands Playhouse fundraising auction set for Saturday, May 24



Mark your calendars! The Highlands Playhouse is hosting an auction on Saturday, May 24 at 7 p.m. All items up for bid will be available for inspection from 6 p.m. until the start of the auction, and we are pleased to offer soft drinks, wine, and light hors d'oeuvres during the preview hour. Auctioneer Dodie Allen of Dodie's Auction House in Sylva will be presiding. We offer custom jewelry designed by Anthony Alexander, a Magnavox TV, Hungarian Porcelain, two pieces of original artwork from Bryant Art Glass, some interesting pieces of furniture, a beautiful hammock from Brazil, miscellaneous box lots, and many other one-of-a-kind items you just can't live without. Don't miss the fun and bargains of a lifetime! Donations for the auction are gladly being accepted. Call Dianne Ray at 828-743-5625 or 404-510-2175. See you there!

HCP's 'Ballyhoo' runs Thursday-Sunday this week



Reba Freitag (played by Jenny King) tends to her knitting while her sister-in-law Boo Levy (played by Becky Schilling) schemes to get her daughter invited to the Ballyhoo dance.

The Highlands Community Players' production of "The Last Night of Ballyhoo" continues this weekend at the Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street in Highlands. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, May 15, 16, and 17, the performances start at 7:30 p.m. and at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 18. Call the HCP box office, 526-8084 for reservations. Tickets are \$15 and may also be purchased at the door a half hour before the play begins.

the U.S. to Christian radio and have enjoyed charting in the National TOP 100. This Southern gospel quartet combines rich vocal harmonies with an exciting program of gospel music which is enjoyed by young and old. 220 Main Street, Highlands, NC. Everyone is invited.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2.5-mile hike to Little Rock Branch near Rock Gap at Standing Indian Campground. Drive 28 miles round trip. Meet at the Westgate parking lot in Franklin, opposite Burger King, at 2 p.m. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Monday-Saturday, May 19-31

• Summer Courses offered at the Highlands Biological Station. Biology of Plethodontid Salamanders. For program descriptions and information about costs, academic credit, instructors, and prerequisites for our summer courses and workshops visit <http://www.wcu.edu/hbs/currentcourses.htm> or call the Highlands Biological Station at (828) 526-2602.

Tuesday, May 20

• Join the Highlands Biological Station for a day-long foray entitled "Ancient Landscapes Drift Trip." Participants will canoe a short, non-technical section of the Little Tennessee River near Franklin, through what were the Middle Towns of the Cherokee. Author Tom Hatley and environmental historian Brent Martin will help interpret a fascinating pre-European landscape that includes fish weirs, useful plants, and past settlement sites in the Little Tennessee Valley and around the Cowee Mound. The

group meets at 9 am at the Great Smoky Mountain Fish Camp, 81 Bennett Rd., about four miles north of Franklin, which intersects Highway 28 (Bryson City Rd.) just before the bridge over the Little Tennessee River (www.fishcamp.biz). Cost is \$75 per person and includes equipment, lunch and shuttle service, which will bring participants back to their vehicles before 5 p.m. To register for or to get more information about these unique offerings, call 828-526-2602 or email ahinkle@email.wcu.edu.

• Free Take Charge of Your Health Lecture Series at Cashiers Chiropractic at The Hudson Library in Highlands. "Vitamins: Why do we take them?" From 6-7 p.m. Please call to register: in Cashiers at 828-743-9070 or in Highlands at 828-526-3709.

Thursday, May 22

• The American Cancer Society will host a Kick Off celebration for the 2008 Relay For Life of Mountain Top on Thursday at Grace Community Church on Highway 107 N. in Cashiers. This fun-filled event will be exciting for all ages! The 2008 'Carnival of Hope' theme will be complete with barbecue, music, face-painting, clowns and more!

Friday, May 23

• Storyteller, folklorist and playwright Gary Carden will provide an evening of entertainment at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street at 8 p.m. Carden's homespun humor mixed with pathos delighted the audiences who saw him in the Highlands Community Players' production of his play, "Raindrop Waltz," that the board of directors of PAC decided to invite him back for a full evening of him alone. Tickets to "A Night with Gary Carden" are \$15 each and are available now

• See EVENTS page 24

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Bridge builder passionate about history, detail

Meet Walker, other preservationists at The Bascom's May 24 Bridge Pull
"The secret to life is enjoying the passage of time." – James Taylor



Donald Walker enjoys every minute – and everything in it. He is a craftsman and master of his medium: ancient timber. Wood, even old lumber, is a living thing, moving and shifting all the time. Changes in temperature and moisture can physically alter the size and shape of a wooden joist or beam, warp it, make it swell, shrink or crack. Walker takes it all in stride and goes about his work calmly, methodically. He saws, chisels, and planes huge planks, accommodating their knots and grain, coaxing them into a perfect dovetail fit. He couldn't do what he does without a hefty dose of determination. His friends tease he can be as stubborn as the timber he works with.

Whether restoring an 1820s covered bridge or hiking an old logging trail, he is in perfect partnership, tongue-in-groove, with his natural world. It's hard to know where his work stops and personal life begins. He is equally happy in both realms, loving each challenge. Walker does what comes naturally, the old-fashioned way, using kerosene lamps and wood for cooking and heating. He believes that much of the world has become a throwaway society. Playing a major role in building a bridge that will never fall under a bulldozer's blade in the name of progress is a great source of pride to him.

Walker is definitely his own man, living by his own rules, one of which is a rebellion against shaving. That earned him the nickname "Sharp-dressed Man" because of his mountain-man image and Z.Z. Top beard.

Since the early 1980s, Walker has been an integral part of Arnold M. Graton Associates, Inc. Graton is a restorative constructionist, bearer of the Graton family standard to authentically reinstate vintage buildings and covered bridges. He incorporates the same methods used centuries ago. The work is hard, slow, exhausting, but intensely rewarding.

"Three hundred years from now,

when people are crossing a hand-built bridge, I'll be underground, smiling," Walker said. "It's a great feeling knowing I have been a part of preserving these beautiful structures."

It's that kind of passionate devotion and attention to historical detail that sets Walker and Graton apart from the rest. Along with their dedicated builder/partner, Meg Dansereau, they are among a handful of people on the planet who knows how to tackle such a huge engineering feat, using the most basic of tools. And the amazing thing is, they have no plans (it's all in Arnold's head), they use no metal nails, screws, or braces, and they do it one timber and hand-turned trunnel (peg) at a time.

Their hard work will be celebrated Saturday, May 24, at The Bascom's Bridge Pull at the Oak Street site of The Bascom's new art campus, Hwy. 64, Highlands. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Everyone is invited. Visitors are encouraged to walk the Greenway and connect with the Nature/Sculpture Trail leading straight to the bridge. Trails will be marked. Park at the Recreation Park/Highlands Civic Center and follow the signs.

To ride a shuttle, park in the lower level (only) of Highlands Plaza (just off Hwy. 106) or at Regions Bank, 161 Spring Street. Shuttles will run 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Popcorn, lemonade, bottled water and apples will be onsite, along with live music and fun for all. Watch a team of oxen pull the bridge onto its moorings.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see history in the making," said Donna Woods, The Bascom's events director. "Meet Arnold, Meg, and the Sharp-dressed Man. They love to talk about the restoration and the Graton heritage. Bring your camera and plan on a grand kick-off to summer in Highlands."

For more information, call The Bascom at (828) 526-4949, ext. 6#, or visit www.thebascom.org.

at the Performing Arts Center. Charge by phone: (828) 526-9047 or by a visit to www.highlandsp Performing Arts Center.org.

Saturday & Sunday, May 24-25

• More than 30 crafters and artists selling their work at the up-coming Village Square Art & Craft show in the Pine Street Park and the Highlands Village Square. The show will feature folk art, fine 4art, metal work, wood work, pottery and more. Call 828-787-2021 for more information.

Saturday, May 24

• Mountain Garden Club Plant Sale Saturday, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., at the Baseball Park on the corner of Highway 64 East (North 4th Street) and Hickory Street, in Highlands. The rain date is Sunday, May 25, from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. Come early for the best pick at this once a year sale!

• The Highlands Playhouse is hosting an auction on Saturday at 7 p.m. All items up for bid will be available for inspection from 6 p.m. until the start of the auction, and there will be soft drinks, wine, and light hors d'oeuvres during the preview hour. Auctioneer Dodie Allen of Dodie's Auction House in Sylva will be presiding. There will be custom jewelry designed by Anthony Alexander, a Magnavox TV, Hungarian Porcelain, two pieces of original artwork from Bryant Art Glass, some interesting pieces of furniture, a beautiful hammock from Brazil, miscellaneous box lots, and many other one-of-a-kind items. Don't miss the fun and bargains of a lifetime! Donations for the auction are gladly being accepted. Call Dianne Ray at 828-743-5625 or 404-510-2175. See you there!

• Old-Fashioned Bridge Pull will be held at the site of The Bascom's new art campus, on Oak Street. The event is a free community celebration where people can watch as a team of oxen pull the covered bridge to its new location over the creek. Refreshments and T-shirts will be available. For information, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

• Pet adoption at Whiskers on Main Street 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsored by Castaway Critter Pet Rescue organization of Murphy, N.C.

Saturday, May 24

• Pancake Breakfast of the season, sponsored by the Scaly Mountain Women's Club. Guests served from 7:30-10:30 a.m. by club members at tables set in the historic Scaly School House, NC Highway 106 and Buck Knob Road in downtown Scaly. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children. You may also order takeout. Proceeds from the events provide scholarships for local students of all ages who wish to continue their post-secondary education in an academic setting or trade school.

Week of May 26

• The Town has designated the week as Spring Cleanup Week this year. Residents may arrange for the collection of white goods, such as old washing machines or refrigerators, during that week by calling the Town Office at 526-2118 during business hours, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Sunday, May 25

• Dedication and ribbon cutting of the Bug Hill Cottage at 2 p.m. at the Bug Hill Cottage, ca. 1908, in the Historic Village next to the Civic Center. There'll be an "appearance" by Dr. Mary Lapham, owner-operator of the sanatorium where the cottage was used in the treatment of tuberculosis patients. No admission. Park at the Civic Center.

Tuesday, May 27

• Free Take Charge of Your Health Lecture Series at Cashiers Chiropractic at Laurel Terrace. Men only: "Andopause, disturbing symptoms" from 6-7 p.m. Please call to register: in Cashiers at 828-743-9070 or in Highlands at 828-526-3709.

Wednesday, May 28

• The Village Nature Series is a free summer-time lecture series co-hosted by Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust & Village Green. "New Perspectives of Old Forests" with Will Blozan. Everyone is welcome. Lectures are held at the Albert Carlton Library in Cashiers. Lectures begin at 6:30 PM. Refreshments follow. There is no charge but donations are graciously accepted. Call HCLT for info: 526.1111

Tuesday & Wednesday, May 29-30

• Collective Spirits Wine Festival to benefit The Bascom art center will be held at Highlands Country Club. Collective Spirits begins on May 29, at 6:30 p.m. with the tasting of carefully chosen international and domestic wines, plus piano music and culinary stations. It continues on May 30 at 11 a.m. with a buffet brunch, sparkling wine tasting and lecture. At 1 p.m. the live auction begins, delivered by well-known auctioneer Dennis Hall. For tickets or information on becoming an event patron, call The Bascom at (828) 526-4949 or email info@thebascom.org.

Thursday, May 29

• Mirror Lake Improvement Association meeting 7:30 p.m. at the Civic Center.

Friday, May 30

• Lakeside Restaurant present Delia Viader Wine Dinner at 7 p.m. Begin the evening with a Meet & Greet with Owner/Winemaker, Delia Viader. Enjoy 5 current release varietals of Viader Wines perfectly paired with Lakeside Specialties! \$125 per person plus tax and gratuity. Reservations Required. Call 828-526-9419.

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CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN rated PG

Mon - Fri (5), 8
Sat & Sun: (1), (4), 7, 10

SPEED RACER rated PG

Mon - Fri: (4), 7, 9:20
Sat & Sun: (1:30), (4), 7, 9:20

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS rated PG-13

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

IRON MAN rated PG-13

Mon - Fri: (4:30), 7:10, 9:30
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:30), 7:10, 9:30

UPCOMING EVENTS

• At the Instant Theatre Company on Main Street, Hurricane Creek Dance with Hurricane Creek. No reservations required. Doors open at 7:30.

• "Replica of a Presidential State Dinner," a five-course wine dinner at Fressers Eatery at 6:30 p.m. featuring dessert by Roland Mesnier, legendary White House Pastry Chef. \$150 per person, plus tax and gratuity. Call Fressers at 526-4188 for reservations.

Saturday, May 31

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6 mile hike on the GA Bartram Trail from Warwoman Dell to the Pinnacle, passing two waterfalls along the way. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, at 9 a.m. Drive 16 miles round trip. Hikers from Highlands or Cashiers call leader for alternate meeting place. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader, Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

• At the Nature Center, the 5th Annual Salamander Meander, 9 p.m. - until, ages 7 to adult: A night search for some of the area's magnificent salamanders in the wild (advanced registration required, \$5/person).

• A "Washington Tea Party" from 2:30-4:30 p.m., at the Performing Art Center featuring a

lecture, demonstration and tea with Roland Mesnier, legendary White House Pastry Chef. \$75 per person. Call Fressers at 526-4188 for reservations.

• "All the Presidents' Pastries" at 6:30 at the Performing Arts Center featuring a photo essay and lecture followed by a champagne and dessert reception and booksigning. \$85 per person. Call Fressers at 526-4188 for reservations.

Sunday, June 1

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take two hikes, mostly downhill, in the Wayah Bald area. Hike 1, from Wayah Bald to Wayah Crest, is a 4.2 mile easy-to moderate hike. Hike 2, from Wilson Lick Ranger Station to Wayah Crest, is an easy 1.5 mile hike. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 p.m. Drive 35 miles round trip. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

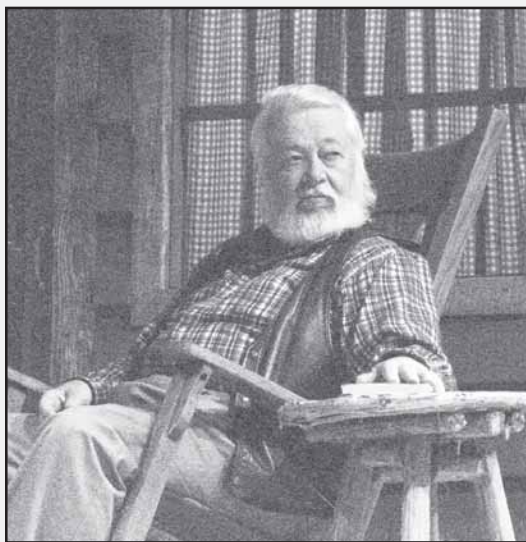
• Christ Anglican Church of Highlands/Cashiers and Community Bible Church series of concerts, Sundays at CBC at 2:30. Love offerings will be given to noted agencies. Gregory Broughton - a concert of Spirituals & Gospel music benefiting The Emergency Council

Monday-Saturday, June 2-14

• Summer Courses offered at the Highlands Biological Station. Mammals of the Southern Appa-

Storyteller Carden to do one-man show at PAC on Friday, May 23

Storyteller, folklorist and playwright Gary Carden will provide an evening of entertainment at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street May 23 at 8 p.m. Carden's homespun humor mixed with pathos delighted the audiences who saw him in the



mentary or a poet's vision. In many ways he is our own Garrison Keillor, creator of our own Appalachian Home Companion. He can hold an audience in his hands and bring it to tears or to roll-in-the-aisle laughter. You can't find this sort of magic often. We are

lucky to have Gary Carden among us." Carden has been granted numerous awards, including the University of North Carolina Award in Drama, the North Carolina Arts Council Playwright's Award, the Appalachian Writers Association Book of the Year Award for "Mason Jars in the Flood," and the North Carolina Language and Life Award for preservation of mountain heritage.

Tickets to "A Night with Gary Carden" are \$15 each and are available now at the Performing Arts Center. Charge by phone: (828) 526-9047.

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Tickets to "A Night with Gary Carden" are \$15 each and are available now at the Performing Arts Center. Charge by phone: (828) 526-9047.

Wine dinners round out The Bascom's Collective Spirits festivities

Highlands is already on the radar when it comes to wine, but this month's Collective Spirits wine festival promises to stamp the town as a "grape destination." Set for May 29-30 at Highlands Country Club, the wine festival benefits The Bascom, the area's nonprofit center for the visual arts.

In addition to the two-day spread of auctions, wine tastings and lectures, several area restaurants are joining into the fun, hosting special "wine dinners" featuring well-known wine personalities.

These pay-on-your-own wine dinners are offered Friday and Saturday night, May 30 and 31.

The Friday night lineup is as follows:

• Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro, featuring Bill Golden of Ferrari Carano

• on the Verandah, featuring Michael DeLoach of Hook and Ladder Vineyards

• Fressers Eatery, featuring Donna Creese of St. Supery Winery

• Lakeside Restaurant, featuring Delia Viader of Viader Vineyards

The Saturday night lineup is as follows:

• Cyprus Restaurant, featuring Jeremy Overman of Longview Wines

lachian Mountains For program descriptions and information about costs, academic credit, instructors, and prerequisites for our summer courses and workshops visit <http://www.wcu.edu/hbs/currentcourses.htm> or call the Highlands Biological Station at (828) 526-2602.

Saturday, June 7

• For National Trail Day (June 7) the Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4.5 mile hike on a national trail — the NC Bartram Trail — ascending Scaly Mtn. and descending to Tessentee Campground with an elevation change of 1,000 feet. Drive 15 miles round trip with car shuttle. Meet at the Scaly Mtn. post office on Hwy. 106 at 9:30 a.m. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Virginia Talbot, 526-4904, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

• The plateau's second annual Land Trust Day! Treat yourself to a day of shopping and dining for a great cause. When you support your local participating businesses you will be contributing to Highlands-Cashier Land Trust's mission to "save the places we all love." Participating businesses to be announced. Contact HCLT for more info: 526.1111, Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net, www.hicashit.org.

Sunday, June 8

• HCP's auditions for "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," at PAC at 2 p.m. The performance is Aug. 20-30.

Monday, June 9

• HCP's auditions for "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," at PAC at 5 p.m.

• The Log Cabin, featuring Nancy Peach of Valckenberg International

• Rosewood Market (to be held at a private home), featuring Martin Kolk of Vinilandia USA and Tim Lundy.

A Saturday afternoon wine tasting at Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop will also feature Vinilandia's Kolk.

"We're really excited about these wine dinners, which will round out a weekend of wine and make our event even more of a true wine festival," said Donna Woods, The Bascom director of events. "We hope you will come out and support these restaurants, as well as support The Bascom's education and exhibition programming by purchasing a ticket to the wine festival's Thursday and Friday events."

Tickets to the 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 29, wine tasting, culinary sampling and silent auction are \$125. Tickets to the 11 a.m. Friday, May 30, brunch, sparkling wine tasting and live auction are \$100. A two-day combination ticket is \$200.

Corporate sponsors of the event are Bank of New York-Mellon, First Citizens Bank, Harry Norman Realtors and WHLC FM 104.5.

To order tickets, call (828) 526-4949 or email info@thebascom.org.

The performance is Aug. 20-30.

Wed.-Sat., June 11-14

• The Return of Herbert Bracewell" at The Instant Theatre. A superb comedy starring David Milford and Madeleine Davis. For tickets call the ITC box office at 828-342-9197.

Thursday, June 12

• Join friends of Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust for "Birding with the Audubon Society" This moderate hike includes a trail lunch by the waterfalls. Contact HCLT by June 11 to sign up & for info: 526.1111, Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net.

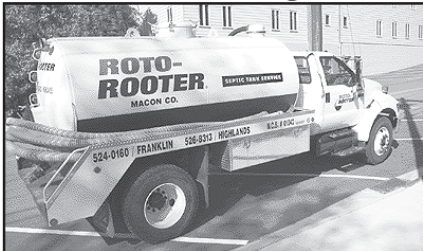
• The growing international problem of human trafficking will be the focus of a community education forum at the Franklin First United Methodist Church 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is sponsored by the Zonta Club of Franklin, REACH of Macon County and the 30th Judicial District Alliance Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. The forum is open to the public at no cost.

Saturday, June 14

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will hike the unofficial Bartram Trail in South Carolina, from the state line at Hwy. 28 to Hwy. 107, including parts of the Chattooga River Trail and the SC Foothills Trail. The hike, rated moderate, is 6.9 miles in length with a number of ups and downs along the way. Drive 60 miles round trip. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9 a.m. Hikers coming from Franklin or Cashiers, call the leader for carpool and driving information. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call

• See EVENTS page 26

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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

leader Doug Deane, 864-718-9265, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

• At the Nature Center, Nature by Night 9-10:30 p.m., ages 6 to adult): Bring a flashlight and learn about nocturnal animals through a variety of activities, games, and observations in the Botanical Garden (advanced registration required, \$2/person).



Steve, Lori, Janice, Judy, Lila, Pam, Leesa
and Jarrett

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ACS plans 'Relay' kick-off May 22

The American Cancer Society will host a Kick Off celebration for the 2008 Relay For Life of Mountain Top on Thursday, May 22 at Grace Community Church on Highway 107 N. in Cashiers. This fun-filled event will be exciting for all ages! The 2008 'Carnival of Hope' theme will be complete with barbecue, music, face-painting, clowns and more! In 2007, the Mountain Top Relay For Life raised \$159,750 for the American Cancer Society, claiming the number-one per capita Relay For Life event in the nation for the seventh year in a row. The 2008 Relay For Life of Mountain Top will be held August 22-23 at The Cashiers Community Park.

Relay For Life is a fun-filled overnight event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money for research and programs of your American Cancer Society. Teams of family members, friends, co-workers, and others join together each year to raise funds for the American Cancer So-

ciety and make a difference in the community. In honor of those who battle cancer 24 hours a day, team members typically take turns walking the track throughout the day and night.

At every Relay For Life event, we celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer through our Survivor's Lap and survivor recognition. The strength of survivors inspires others to continue to fight. We also remember loved ones lost to the disease with our Luminaria Ceremony. At Relay, people who have walked alongside those battling cancer can grieve and find healing. Finally, we fight back against cancer because everyone has been touched by cancer and we want to put an end to the disease. Relay helps individuals make a commitment to save lives by taking up the fight. For more information, please visit www.relayforlife.org or call Jill Ream toll-free at 866-227-7798.

"Gods in Alabama" author Joshilyn Jackson at Cyrano's on Sunday, May 18

Joshilyn Jackson, best-selling author of "Gods in Alabama" and "Between, Georgia," will be at Cyrano's Bookshop on Sunday, May 18, from 1-3 p.m. to sign copies of her new novel, "The Girl Who Stopped Swimming." "Gods in Alabama," Jackson's first book, was praised by critics and readers alike, with the New York Post declaring it "required reading," and the Atlanta Journal Constitution calling Ms. Jackson's writing

"Hip...sassy...endearing." And "Between, Georgia" got raves from both People Magazine and the Washington Post. Ms. Jackson and her family live outside of Atlanta.

"The Girl Who Stopped Swimming" is a mystery, a ghost story and an introduction to a most unusual family. Laurel Grey Hawthorne is a nationally known art quilter who lives in Florida, has a wonderful daughter, a passionate husband and the perfect house. Everything is going great — until that night when the ghost of her 14-year-old neighbor, Molly Dufresne, shows up and leads Laurel out to the backyard pool, where Molly's corpse is floating. Molly's death remains unexplained until Laurel's sister Thalia comes to help.

An impoverished actress, and Laurel's exact opposite, Thalia wants to dig for the emotional squalor lurking just below the town's—and her own family's — image of respectability.

In its review of "The Girl Who Stopped Swimming," USA Today says: "The story builds to an exciting and violent ending, one that surprises yet seems to fit. Following the twists in the odd, sultry story is not unlike traveling a hot, dusty lane down in Florida, where colorful characters and unexpected behavior become the norm."

Sara Gruen, author of the phenomenal best seller, "Water for Elephants" writes, "Joshilyn Jackson has done it again.... Nothing is quite as it seems, and Jackson's skilful unraveling of family secrets and betrayal left me breathless. You must read this book!"

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

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The Visitor Information Program
airs at 7 am, 9 am, 4 pm, 6 pm,
9 pm, and 11 pm.

... ANOTHER POV continued from page 9

We have computers examining every call, what's next? How about mandatory GPS trackers on our cars to look for suspicious travel? Maybe cameras in our neighborhoods to check for illegal activity, or better yet, in our homes.

In light of the world situation we do need to be more diligent about these things, but I share in the philosophy of General John Stark, New Hampshire's most famous Revolutionary War general who said, "Live Free or Die: Death is not the worst of evils."

This country is facing an assault on personal privacy. Next week I will express Another POV.

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HELP WANTED

HIGHLANDS FALLS COUNTRY CLUB Now hiring seasonal part-time/full-time positions Golf Shop sales associate & cart attendant positions. Call for Appointment Allen 526-2189 5/1

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

RN NEEDED for upscale retirement community. Oversee health care needs of 26 assisted living residents, including supervising CNAs and med techs. Good public relations and customer service skills needed. Apply in person at Chestnut Hill, 64 Clubhouse Trail, Highlands, NC. Or email your resume to admin@chestnuthillslc.com. Drug screening and background check. EOE. 4/17

WHY KNOT KNIT HIGHLANDS is seeking a manager for its knitting retail shop. Must be courteous, dependable and know how to knit. For more info, contact: Beki at #404-542-2904.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH is accepting resumes for an Office Assistant. Computer skills, people skills and creative abilities are required. 828-526-4685 or office@cbchighlands.com

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

COOK AND DIETARY AIDE at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Various shifts and days available. Must be able to work weekends and be able to read and speak English. Salary depends on experience. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

EARN WHILE YOU LEARN! Are you interested in a new career? Become a Certified Nursing Assistant for Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. C.N.A. classes will start on Tuesday, May 27, 2008. Students will be paid while in class Mondays through Fridays for 6 hours a day. Upon graduation and successful completion of the exam, students will become a Certified Nursing Assistant and will receive a substantial increase in pay. Excellent benefit

package after 30 days. Pre-employment substance screening. If interested in joining a dynamic healthcare team, call Robbin Houston at 828-526-1317, or apply online through our website at www.hchospital.org.

PLANT OPERATIONS MANAGER is needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. There will be an overall responsibility for the physical and equipment maintenance operation for all facilities owned and operated by HCH. Four years experience in hospital maintenance with a working knowledge of methods and techniques used in electrical, mechanical, and building maintenance. A minimum of two years in hospital safety management with a working knowledge of current JCAHO standards. C-Well Certification is preferred. Effective leadership and management skills are important. Full-Time, Monday through Friday position. Must be able to take call. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RNS at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. Full, Part-time and PRN positions available for 12 hour day and night shifts. Excellent wage scale, with shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

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

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.

LOST & FOUND

CANOE FOUND IN MIRROR LAKE. Call 828-506-0308 for details

YARD SALES

WHOLE HOUSE MULTI-FAMILY SALE May 15, 16, 17 at Sequoyah Point Way off U.S. 64 west, across from Webbmont. Furniture, fixtures, accessories, tools, clothes, linens, dishes, paintings, and much more. EVERYTHING MUST GO! Call 342-2302

5/15

SAT. MAY 17. FROM 9 AM-? 30 Lullwater Rd. Franklin (just off Highlands Rd, between Cullasaja Exx-on and Walnut Creek). Lots of stuff: household, furniture, office furniture, equipment and supplies, etc.

Sat. May 17 – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Willow loveseat, table and foot stool, golf equipment, lighting, TV tables, bedding, household items, crafts & more! Hicks Road to Mirrormont to Bonnie to 1743 Dolly Lane.

SATURDAY, MAY 24 – HIGHLANDS PLAYHOUSE AUCTION AT 6 P.M. Preview Hour includes wine, and hors d'oeuvres. Auction starts at 7:00pm. Sampling of articles: Hungarian Porcelain, crystal, furniture, TV, mixed box lots.

WORK WANTED

MALE HOME HEALTH AIDE – Available for days or night shift. 11 years experience. Call Desmond. 828-421-3714. 5/22

LOOKING FOR YARD WORK -- Experienced and dependable. Call 828-200-1038.

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

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

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

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

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UNIQUE COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY on Main St Highlands. 800 sq ft retail/office space just in time for the season. Space includes bath & kitchen. Call for details 526-3363.

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UNIQUE COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY ON MAIN ST HIGHLANDS. 800 sq ft retail/office space just in time for the season. Space includes bath & kitchen. Call for details 526-3363.

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

1 BEDROOM, Living Room, Kitchen, Patio., 6-month lease. Utilities included except phone. 1 month's security deposit. \$650 a month. Call 526-2679.

IN TOWN 2/2 FULLY FURNISHED CONDO. LR, DR, sun room, w/d. Rent in line with length of lease. Call 828-421-2144.

NEW 3 BED PLUS LOFT/3.5 BATH Log home in Cashiers with view from decks, main level incl. master furnished. \$1,900/month. Call 813-972-2111 5/15

2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, Heat, AC, great location just off the Highlands Road in Franklin. \$750 per month. Call Sandy 342-6806 or 524-7350.

DOWNSTAIRS APARTMENT one bedroom, living room, bathroom. Close to Town. \$700/mth, utilities included. Call 828-342-0157.

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

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

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

VACATION RENTAL

4 BEDROOMS, 2.5 BATHS, LONG RANGE VIEW, Sleeps 9, Immaculate, Newly Remodeled, \$875/week. Lower rates for 4 persons or less. See photos at <http://vrbo.com/181808.305-458-0033>. 6/5

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.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

WALK TO TOWN — .75 acre off Hicks Rd in Mirror Lake. Beautifully wooded hillside elevation. Water, Electric and driveway. Make an Offer. Call 828-200-9334.

RV SITES FOR RENT OR LEASE IN-TOWN. Walk to Main Street. Call for details. (828)526-1684.

REDUCED FROM \$459,000 to \$399,000. NEW CONSTRUCTION WITH LONG RANGE VIEW — 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Cathedral Ceilings, Stone Fireplace, Hardwood Floors, Granite Kitchen, Buck Creek area, \$399,000 firm. (305) 458-0033. 6/5

LAND FOR SALE – By owners. Unrestricted, 64+ acres. Close to Highlands. 360-degree view. Level pastures. 2 bed house and highway frontage. Call 828-526-2879. 5/29.

1,600 SQ.FT. HANDICAPPED ACCESS. house on 2 acres. 3br/2 large bath w/roll under sinks; elevator, finished basement w/workshop area, 2 car carport;

• See CLASSIFIEDS page 27

• CLASSIFIEDS •

new metal roof; native stone fireplace & landscaping; new hardwood floors. Bordered by USFS. creek and Buck Creek Road. Access to fish pond.\$329,000. Call 524-6038. 5/15

HOUSE FOR SALE IN WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA. 3 bedroom, 2 ½ 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/HIDDENCREEK or contact owner directly at 828-526-5333.

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

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

HOUSE FOR SALE (ISLAMORADA, FLORIDA) - Two bedroom, one and ½ bath conch house for sale at Mile Marker 86, near Founders Park on Ocean-side. 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 Town. 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

BEAUTIFUL AND COMFORTABLE NEW WOODEN ROCKER with slated seat in Oak finish. \$85. Call 526-4340 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

UPSCALE PINE COMPUTER ARMOIRE - paid \$1,500. Asking \$400. Like new. 58" x 78" Call 404-314-4909 or 526-0545.

BEAUTIFUL BLACK WICKER SOFA - for porch. Custom cushions. like new. 98" \$400. Call 404-314-4909 or 526-0545.

8-PIECE BED ENSEMBLE - California King multi-color reversible comforter, 2 king shams, bed skirt, quilted matching throw, 4 decorative pillows. \$30. Call

526-9966.

20-PIECE WROUGHT IRON PATIO SET WITH COORDINATING SUNBRELLA FABRICKS. Table, 4 chairs, 6 side chairs, love seat, coffee table, 2 chaises, accent tables. Priced separately. Call 526-9966.

JENN-AIRE - DOWN DRAFT COOK TOP. Like New., Take Out. Originally \$585. Asking \$125. Call 743-7878.

AB LOUNGE - New, taken out of box, but never used. \$60. 526-9107.

SACRIFICE. BEAUTIFUL DIAMOND RING - Center stone. VS1, 3.24kt, .60kt baget side diamonds in 14kt. gold. Call 828-526-5684. Leave message. 5/15

FREE DINING ROOM TABLE. Glass Top, 6 chairs. White. Call 526-5910

DUMP TRAILER - 12 ft. hydraulic. \$1,200. Call 526-5910.

ANTIQUE FURNITURE: Medallion Back Sofa, Louis XV substyle. \$300. Matching Lady's and Gentleman's Chairs, \$400 set. Rocking Chair, Lincoln Type, upholstered. \$175. Sold separately or all for \$750. Call Sandy at 369-6263.

FRENCH HORN Recently overhauled Conn 6-D double, excellent condition \$1,500. 828-526-2905 leave message

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.

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.

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.

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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.

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 chain-link. 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)

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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

2006 POLARIS RANGER BROWNING EDITION 700XP. Has dual gun scabbards, complete cab system, and 4000lb warn winch. Has 78 hours on it. I have \$16,000 invested in it asking \$11,000 OBO. Call cell (828) 421-0730 leave message.

1979 CJ7 JEEP - original parts, runs well, rebuilt engine, new tires. \$8,000 or OBO. Call 508-6533. 5/29

CHEVROLET TAHOE LS 4X4 1999 135K miles, black, grey interior, luggage rack, great for hauling or towing, \$6,400 828.526.5210

2002 CHEVROLET TAHOE - 4-dr, 63,500 miles. Green with tan leather. Excellent condition. \$14,000. Call 828-743-6946.

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. Available at Hayman's Automotive on Highlands Road. Call Clay (828) 342-1603 or 828-369-9812.

5/15
1992 TOYOTA CELICA ST - White, AT, 164k, in good shape. Call 828-200-0465.

2002 TOYOTA LANDCRUISER, Blk/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.

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SERVICES

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DOES YOUR LOVED ONE NEED HELP NIGHTS? 15 years experience. CPR trained. Call Jean at 828-342-1603 or 828-369-9812. 5/15

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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. 6/5

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CUTTING EDGE TREE SERVICE - "Let us go out on a Limb for You." We specialize in tree removal,

... TAXES continued from page 18

Except for health insurance costs and a 4% cost of living adjustment, no adjustments have been made to current salary and fringe benefits of each departmental budget. In addition only four new positions have been added to the budget - one each in law enforcement, finance, maintenance and social services.

In addition to funding the schools capital improvement projects, the budget also includes a 5% increase in current expense - a continuation of the \$700,000 appropriation for current capital outlay and full funding for the requested teacher supplement. "The funding scenario should keep

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.

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J&J LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICES - complete lawn and landscaping service, spring clean-up, 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.

Macon around the state average for county appropriations per student and probably above average in terms of capital outlay per student," said Horton.

The county commission scheduled several worksessions to go over the proposed budget prior to the public hearing and its subsequent adoption. Worksessions will be in the board room at the courthouse May 20 and May 29 from 6-8 p.m. A public hearing on the budget is set for June 9 with possible adoption at the June 16 meeting.

Horton said the budget will be online and available in hard copy prior to the public hearing.

- **Kim Lewicki**

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• REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS •

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

Flats / Scaly Mtn.	• 0650680, RD 1625, SKY VALLEY-SCALY MTN VOL FIRE & RESCUE, 3/18/2008, \$0., SKY VALLEY-SCALY MTN VOL FIRE & RESCUE, \$151,950.	• 0650724, 116 LOVE RD, BILLINGSLEY VIRGINIA LIFE EST, 3/31/2008, \$0., BILLINGSLEY VIRGINIA LIFE EST, \$33,250.	• 0650725, RD 1622 TRACT 2 BARTRAM RIDGE, BARTRAM RIDGE DEVELOPMENT LLC, 3/31/2008, \$0., CO-RAM SUSAN P, \$184,410.	• 0650726 RD 1622 TRACT 1 BARTRAM RIDGE, WALSH LAURE SWANNER, 3/31/2008, \$310,000., BARTRAM RIDGE DEVELOPMENT LLC, \$259,560.	• 0600045, 144 POND RD LOT 52 KING MTN SUBD, HEILER ALFRED, 4/10/2008, \$225,000., SAXON MORTGAGE SERVICES INC, \$381,860.	• 0600079, 414 EASTSIDE DUCK MTN RD OFF HWY 106, THE BARN AT DUCK CROSSING LLC, 4/28/2008, \$0., STEPHENS MICHAEL F, \$425,090.	• 0600474, 210 BELLWOOD DR OFF HWY 106, HALL SANFORD J TRUSTEE, 3/20/2008, \$0., HALL SANDY, \$278,290.	• 0622317 OFF HWY 106 LOT 19 THOMAS KNOB, CALAS LINDA S, 4/15/2008, \$0., LSI MORTGAGE INC, \$118,420.	• 0622319, 22 HIGH MEADOW DR LOT 21 THOMAS KNOB, BANNON GEORGE, 3/28/2008, \$582,500., LEMMKEN, 554600.	• 0622334, OFF HWY 106 LOT 36 THOMAS KNOB, CALAS LINDA S, 4/15/2008, \$0., LSI MORTGAGE INC, \$33,930.	• 0645787, 535 BOB LONG MOUNTAIN RD TRACT 2, BARTENFELD CHELSEA L TRUSTEE, 4/1/2008, \$455,000., ENGLAND WILLIAM J TRUSTEE, \$398,770.
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... BRUGGER continued from page 6

that if Thurmond had won we wouldn't have had all the problems we've been having these last 50 years.)

Sometimes it seems to me that Americans act like prejudice and racism is something we invented, or that we are worse than other people. But this is a mistake — I think prejudice is part of the human condition.

When translated, the name many “native” peoples around the world had for themselves means “The People.” Implicit in this name is the understanding that other people are somehow different. And, as one of my favorite authors, Ken Wilber writes, “Where there is Other there is fear.”

It is easy to find examples of prejudice around the globe. But the depths of prejudice existing in the human heart can still surprise. Here's an example from Pakistan: the Muslims who are “native” to Pakistan are prejudiced against the Muslims who fled to Pakistan from India in 1947.

The Highlands Community Players are doing a play called “Last Night of Ballyhoo” (you can see it May 15-18) that gives another surprising example: prejudice within the American Jewish community. Jews who had emigrated from Germany considered themselves superior to any Jews who were originally from “East of the Elbe” — that is, Poland, Russia, etc. These Jews were “The Other” and were not to be socialized with. And to highlight the absurdity of this prejudice, the play is set in the fall of 1939 as Hitler is ravaging Europe and the Jewish people.

I salute Mildred Loving, and hold her up as an inspiration of what one ordinary person can do to change the world for the better.

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

... HIS & HERS continued from page 8

hanging or being tied or held by a clip. Hmmm...a Dolly Parton wig? Well, maybe not.

Do you know those films where the minister is about to pronounce the couple man and wife, and asks if there is anyone who knows of any reason why the couple can't be married? Over the years, I've dreamed that Prince Charles, Peter O'Toole, or Brad Pitt stood up, and shouted “Michie, don't do it! I love you! There's still a chance for us!” I've finally figured out that scene just isn't going to happen. I used to fantasize about movie stars and princes. Now I dream about ice cream and chocolate.

In life, most of us move from one stage to another, not in dramatic leaps, but slowly, imperceptively, without being aware that we have left a major part of ourselves behind. In this last week, I made a giant leap forward. Next month I make another one. I hope to do this with a certain amount of grace, and if not that, at least a good dose of humor.

About the Author: Michelle A. Mead is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She lives on top of a mountain near Highlands. Michelle is a member of the Highlands Writers Group. She has recently completed her one and only foray into local politics, and is currently in rehab.



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HIGHLANDS NC 28741
526-4925

POLICE & FIRE LOGS

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for May 2-11. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

May 2

- At 6:15 p.m., a motorist at Mirror Lake and Hicks roads was cited for displaying a fake license plate and having a fake registration.

May 5

- At 1 a.m., employees at RBC Centura Bank reported a case of identity theft.

May 6

- At 7:35 p.m., a motorist at Main and Third streets was cited for speeding 31 mph in a 20 zone.

May 7

- At 1:45 p.m., officers investigated damage to real property on Satulah Road where a rock was thrown through a window. The damages were estimated at \$1,200.
- At 8:42 p.m., officers responded to a call of loud music coming from Old Creek Lodge Circle. The party was disbanded.

May 8

- At little past midnight, officers made a welfare check at a residence on Log Cabin Lane.
- At 10 a.m., officers investigated the theft of a handicap placard from a car in Highlands Plaza.

- At 10:30 a.m., a motorist was cited for leaving the scene of an accident on Holt Knob Road and U.S. 64 west.

May 9

- At 12:50 p.m., a motorist at U.S. 64 and Webbmont was cited for driving without a license.

May 10

- At 11:30 a.m., a motorist displaying a fake license plate and in possession of a fake registration at Spring and Third streets was cited for less than 1/2 an ounce of marijuana.

May 11

- At 1 a.m., a motorist on N.C. 106 was cited for speeding 53 mph in a 35 zone.
- At 2:30 a.m., officers on patrol found an open door at the pool house at the Rec Park.
- At 2 p.m., officers responded to an accident at Brooks and Cherokee.

During the week, officers responded to three alarms and issued 10 warning tickets.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of May 7.

May 7

- The dept. responded to an alarm set off by workers at a residence on Crescent Trail.
- The dept. received a call about a possible brush fire, but it was

smoke due to a controlled burn by the Georgia USFS.

- The dept. responded to a motorcycle accident on N.C. 28. The victim was taken to the hospital.

May 9

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on N. 4th Street. The victim was transported to the hospital.

May 10

- The dept. received a call about a possible tree on fire at the Van-Hook Glade Campground on U.S. 64 west. It was unfounded.

May 11

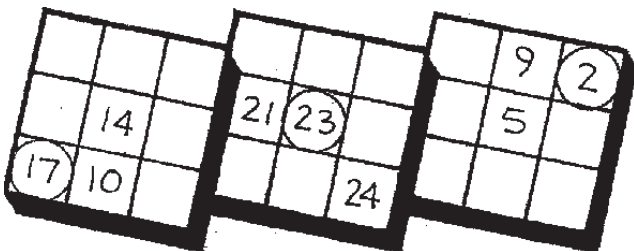
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Mountain High Lodge where someone had fallen. The victim was taken to the hospital.
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Highlands Mountain Club. The call was unfounded.
- The dept. responded to an alarm activation at a residence on Hapoldt Drive. It was set off by workers.

May 12

- The dept. provided mutual aid to Scalpy for a possible structure fire. The call was cancelled en route.
- The dept. responded to an accident on U.S. 64 and NC 106 but the motorist had left the scene.

• FUN & GAMES •

PseudoCube®



#BN1E – Level of Difficulty – Easy

THE SETUP:

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

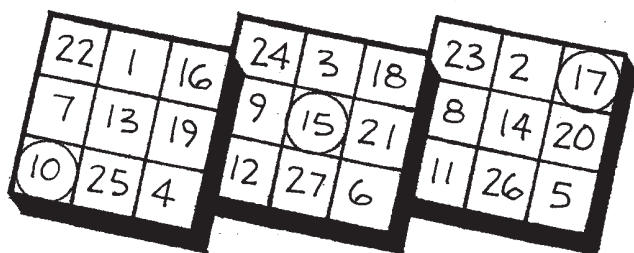
THE CHALLENGE:

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

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com.

Feedback encouraged!

Solution to #AZ4D in May 8 issue



N-Cryptoku®

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

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

Mystery Word "Formal Male Neckwear"

Across

- Chinese beverage (3)
- Frozen aqua (3)
- Shortage (4)
- Illuminated (3)
- Where golf ball is (3)

Down

- Small amount (3)
- Rested (3)
- Exist (2)
- Seventh musical note (2)
- Canada (abbr) (2)

	K			S			T	
C		I	K	'	E	A		'B
	E			C			S	
S	²	C			L	B		T
	³ L			K			E	
K			B		S	C		
	B		⁷	⁴ L			C	
⁹ T	¹⁰	S	A	⁶	K	⁵ L		E
	A			E			B	

Solution to May 8 puzzle

R	A	N	C	W	B	T	S	O
S	B	C	T	O	N	R	W	A
O	W	T	A	S	R	C	B	N
C	S	W	R	T	A	N	O	B
B	R	O	W	N	C	A	T	S
N	T	A	S	B	O	W	R	C
T	C	S	O	A	W	B	N	R
A	O	B	N	R	T	S	C	W
W	N	R	B	C	S	O	A	T

Find It All On This Map

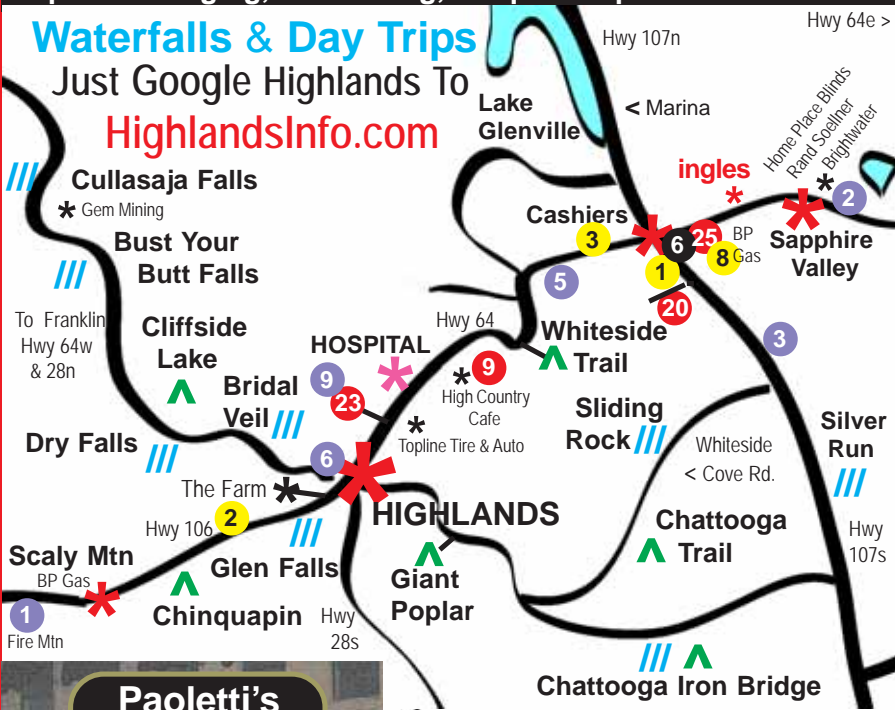
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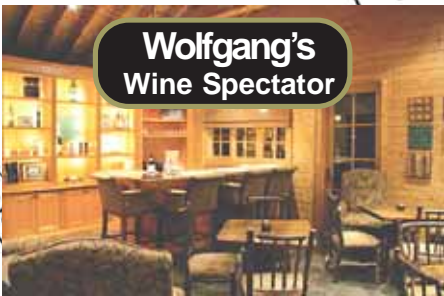


2008 Highlands Map

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



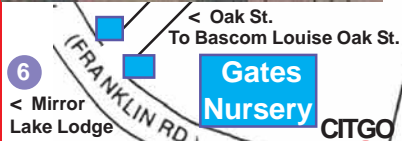
Paoletti's Wine Spectator



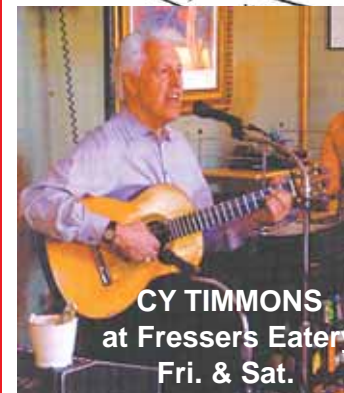
Wolfgang's Wine Spectator



Madison's Wine Spectator



Gates Nursery



CY TIMMONS at Fressers Eater Fri. & Sat.

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Dusty's Market



3 Cyprus 10 Taylor Barns

Live Music - Cyprus

The Farm & Highlands C.C.
1 Mile Hwy. 106
Summer House & Tin Roof
7 2 Miles Hwy. 106 4

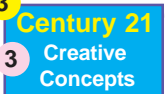
Manley's Auto Service
J&J Lawn & Landscaping
<<< 1 Mile Hwy. 28s

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

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



Mt Fresh Foods



Century 21 Creative Concepts



Lakeside Wine Spectator



HARRIS LAKE



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