

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 7, Number 17

PDF Version - www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, April 23, 2009

This Week in Highlands

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park, 8-9 a.m. \$10/class or \$50/month.

Mondays

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

2nd & 4th Fridays

• Community Drum Circle at the Highlands Rec Park, 6-7:30 p.m. Call 421-0551.

Fridays & Saturdays

• At Highlands Wine & Cheese, complimentary wine samplings during business hours.

Saturdays

• At Highlands Wine & Cheese, Wine Flights from 4-6:30 p.m. Five wines, artisan cheeses and specialty foods. \$19 per person.

Thursday, April 23

• Vilda Brannen, will speak on "Managing Stress during these Stressful Times" at Chestnut Hill Clubhouse at 4:30 pm. Free and open to the public. Call 526-5251.

• Community Bible Church is hosting Town Hall for Hope at 8 p.m. in the sanctuary. Questions? 526-4685

Friday, April 24

• Frog workshop at the Highlands Nature Center. 8 pm. Bring a flashlight. Advanced registration is required. Call 526-2623.

Saturday & Sunday, April 25 & 26

• Highlands Playhouse open auditions for 2009 season at the playhouse Sat. and Sun. 1-5 p.m. Come with a headshot/resume and two monologues - one comedic and one dramatic - 2 minutes in length.

Saturday, April 25

• Highlands Plateau Greenway trip to build rock-on-rock steps in two locations and continue side hill trail work on the lower portion of the new loop. Call Hillrie Quin at 526-2385.

• Earth Day celebration at the Village Green in Cashiers 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event is free, rain or shine. Enjoy live music, interactive demonstrations, food, a climbing wall and more.

• Gorge Litter Sweep Saturday. Breakfast at 8 a.m., Lunch at 11 a.m., at the Visitor Center. Please RSVP at 526-2112.

• The North Georgia Children's Chorus will present a free concert at Highlands United Methodist Church at 3 p.m. Family-friendly.

Sunday, April 26

• From 6-8 p.m., SweetTreats is donating 15% of its sales to the Highlands United Methodist Church Youth Group for June mission trip.

Tuesday, April 28

• Sophomore Dinner Fundraiser (BBQ, silent auction, raffle and bake sale) 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Highlands School followed by the Highlands School Talent show which will begin at 6:30.

• A Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust Wildflower Eco Tour at the Hambidge Center. Take wildflower hike while browsing pottery exhibit. Call HCLT at 526-1111. Free for HCLT members, or \$25 donation for nonmembers.

Wednesday, April 29

• Highlands-Cashiers Hospice will host a webcast of 'Annual Living with Grief' teleconference. For reservations, call 526-1402.

Canine Ruby finds 92-year-old man

When Lewis Dorn didn't show up for work Monday morning, everyone was concerned. Though 92, he has rarely missed a day of work at the Stone Lantern since he started after "retiring" to Highlands 27 years ago.

His niece Pam Brown had called him Sunday night but wasn't too concerned when he didn't answer the phone. She just figured he'd removed his hearing aid for the

night. When she called mid-morning Monday and got no answer, she figured he was in the shower getting ready for work. But by noon when he didn't show for work and still didn't answer the phone she began to worry.

She drove from her house in Blue Valley to Raoul Road where her "very independent" uncle lives and though the dog was in the house and the car was in the garage, Lewis

was no where in sight.

She called a neighbor and together they combed the area looking for Lewis to no avail. At 12:30 p.m. she called 9-1-1 and within minutes police, rescue, and medical officers accompanied by Canine Ruby arrived at the Dorn house at 125 Raoul Road.

With Ruby tracking, the group expanded the search perimeter and See CANINE RUBY page 20

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School play 'Inner Willy' a rousing success



Highlanders of all ages packed PAC Thursday through Sunday of last week to watch Highlands School's second production in as many years. Under the guidance of Highlands-Cashiers Players members and directors Ronnie Spilton and Jim Gordon, Highlands students delivered a polished, fast-paced and lively comedy. Several returned to the stage after perform-

ing in last year's school production of "Get Bill Shakespeare off the Stage" others were newcomers - each performing their parts with precision. With the community's support and the dedication of HCP, Highlands School drama productions will hopefully continue far into the future. For more on Inner Willy see page 10.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Q & A with MC Schools Superintendent

Citizen suggests way to spend school federal dollars

By Ann deVille

According to newspaper accounts, Superintendent Dan Brigman said that federal funds are providing Macon County schools with an additional \$1.6 million over the next two years in Title I and IDEA

money. I'm not sure how the Board of Education plans to allocate those funds, but I respectfully request the BOE consider the following: Tutors. 80 or more tutors.

With \$800K for each year for the next two years, we could have at

least 80 paid tutors and even more unpaid tutors drawing from students seeking credit in area colleges.

The tutors would work in 3-hour blocks. For elementary grades

• See Q&A page 3

Homework done at worksession

County commissioners used Monday night's worksession to prepare for the upcoming April 27 meeting.

Over a period of three hours, they discussed facts concerning a potential abandoned mobile home program, the consequences of the state's mandated well inspection process as it relates to the health department's workload, and they discussed the current and next year's budget.

Since it was a worksession, issues couldn't be voted on, but the commission agreed to try a volunteer abandoned mobile home program rather than getting involved with the state's program which would require an "another layer of government" in the way of an ordinance.

"Anytime we can do something without putting the law to it, I think people will be more accepting," said County Chairman Ronnie Beale.

The purpose of the program • See WORKSESSION page 20

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
70 / 45F	71 / 46F	69 / 44F

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •

• LETTERS •

Editors Note:

• This article doesn't refer to every T.E.A. Party that took place in America last week, including the one held in Franklin – which by all accounts was a spiritual, uplifting experience. It refers only to those gatherings made famous by national television coverage.

The derailing of America's most recent 'Tea Party'



Kim Lewicki
Publisher

The T.E.A. Parties that took place all over the country last Wednesday were exciting. They represented the very best of this country as outlined in our First Amendment so long ago.

“Congress shall make no law respecting an 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 peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

Sadly, any good that may come of the gatherings was overshadowed by the presence of another faction in America, the faction that represents the very worst in our country – a bigoted and prejudiced group that spews hatred as they declare themselves the true representatives of America – “hard-working, white, Christians.”

It's scary how mired people can get in sound bites, slogans and rhetoric which have no foundation in truth and goodness.

Let's consider the label..

Claiming to be the “hard-working” faction of America insinuates that other citizens aren't hard-working. America wouldn't be the place it is today if that was the case. Scores of immigrants – many considered non-white – have built and continue to build America. That hard work and productivity has made us the power-house nation we've become in such a short time. Throughout America's history, people have come here from different countries bringing with them different customs which has made us a melting pot. That is who we are as Americans. That is our history. We never have been a cookie-cutter nation and we never will.

• See FORUM page 3



LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions. **NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands' Newspaper. Please EMAIL letters by Monday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

Highlands' Newspaper

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TEA Parties motive to embarrass

Dear Editor,

Despite the fact that President Obama passed the biggest tax cut in history, the Fox News encouraged (sponsored?) tea protest featuring many of their on-air personalities, went on as planned.

Unlike many successful protests, there were no long range views or overhead shots showing the crowds, only tight close-ups so as not to reveal the meager turn-outs.

In all likelihood, taxes have gone down for the majority of the people who attended the protests. Obviously, the protests were done with purely political motives to embarrass the President.

Don Twardowski
Franklin

Hardworking people at TEA Party

Dear Editor,

My husband and I went to one of the many tea party's in Franklin, N.C. There where more than 500 hardworking people there. It wasn't about being a Democrat or a Republican, liberal or a conservative it was all about hard working people who want there government to do the right thing.

There where no right wing extremist. Instead it was a peaceful group of people that have worked hard all there lives. There was no one there looking for handouts or the government to pay there bills. A group of people who still believe in God and that there country is still a great nation. Not a nation that rewards bad behavior. They are people who live within there means. I walked away yesterday with a new sense of renewal. This is great nation and thanks to God there are still some people believe that this great nation is worth fighting for and unlike our President that are proud to be an AMERICAN.

Maybe ask yourselves this question: Congress, the President and his wife have made millions of dollars under a capitalistic society so why is trying so hard to change it?

Debbie Boros
Franklin

Brugger confused about taxation

Dear Editor

In response to Katie Brugger's article “Taxation” in the April 16 issue. This woman can not be that silly? She gives you arti-

• See LETTERS page 14

• OBITUARY •

Ruth Ellis Layton

Ruth Ellis Layton died on April 11, 2009 at the age of 87. She was born on May 13, 1921 in New Orleans, LA, and lived in New Orleans most of her life. Ruth was a fixture around Highlands where she was a founding member of the Laurel Garden Club. She was an active gardener at her little cabin on Satulah Mountain. She was a friend of many of the Highlands "old timers" and stayed young at heart though out her life.

She moved to Atlanta in 2001 where she lived until the time of her death. She is survived by her three children, Buxton, Robert, and Edith, and by her grandson Buxton IV. She was married to Buxton L. Layton of New Orleans, LA who preceded her in death in 1992. She attended Metairie Park Country Day School, Sophie Newcomb, and University of North Carolina.

Starting at a very early age, Ruth was fortunate to have been able to spend most of her summers in Highlands, NC.. It was her most favorite place to be with family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made in her name to The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, 530 Main Street, Highlands, North Carolina 28741

A memorial service was held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at H.M. Patterson & Son – Spring Hill Chapel, 1020 Spring Street, NW, Atlanta, GA. Burial was in New Orleans.

... FORUM from page 2

And how fortunate is that? How boring it would be if everyone looked, acted, thought and spoke exactly the same.

As to the Christian part of the label – yes, America was founded by people of the Christian faith but they were birthed by people who fled from Europe because they were being persecuted by other Christians.

In fact, the story of both the persecution of Christians and persecution by Christians is an old and long one.

Rome persecuted the first Christians, Catholics persecuted Jews, Protestants persecuted Catholics, Protestants persecuted other Protestants, and on and on.

As it turns out, the history of Christianity is a very un-Christian story and it continues today.

Here we are in the 21st century and while we go to other shores as "Christians" to fight for the rights and freedoms of people with whom we have no cultural connection, right here in America we continue to persecute with word and action people who look, think and worship differently – particularly people who aren't white. What's "Christian" about that?

How Christian was it for some fac-

• See FORUM page 11

... Q & A continued from page 1

(K-5), one 3-hour block (8 am to 11 am) is probably all that would be necessary since this is when math, reading and writing is typically covered. Upper grades may require tutors for two 3-hour blocks, and the tutors might 'float' — move from one classroom to another as needed.

A possible pay scale might be: Retired teachers = \$18/hr; college graduates = \$15/hr; and college students earning college credit would be unpaid.

Since the average expense for 80 paid tutors is under \$10K each, there may be enough money left over to fund four weeks of summer school (8 am to 12 pm) in Nantahala, Highlands and Franklin. Each classroom in every school in the county would have at least one tutor (additional tutors would be available for students with special needs) for at least 3 hours. Teachers could take on the responsibility of hiring/selecting tutors based on their own interviews in order to find the best match for their needs, but the BOE would have final say.

All tutors would be Independent Contractors. That means they would be responsible for their own taxes, and they wouldn't qualify for benefits. This would greatly reduce paperwork and save the county a lot

of money in payroll taxes. Why spend this money on tutors? You can pick any classroom at random, and you will see that the classroom can be divided into three groups: There is the top percentage of students who truly comprehend new concepts and can apply them with ease to previously learned concepts; there is a secondary percentage of students who can memorize the new concepts, but not necessarily be able to apply them to other concepts; and a third percentage of students who are completely lost. This was true when I attended public school, and it remains true today.

What's also true is that many teachers do not have the time to properly address each of these three classroom subdivision groups. Inevitably, one group is forsaken in order to attend another.

More instructors/tutors in the classroom means more one-on-one instruction which means a significant reduction in any child being left behind.

Imagine every teacher having an extra tutor in his/her own classroom — not to grade papers or babysit, but to actually TEACH.

Imagine how much that passion for teaching and knowledge would saturate the entire classroom.

Imagine students being unafraid to raise their hands because they know they can get help without "being a drain on the teacher or other students."

Imagine every student with special needs having his/her own in-classroom tutor.

Imagine teachers gleefully entering their classroom with new ideas because they have the time and resources to try them.

Imagine the college kids who will soon be teachers having this hands-on experience. Can you see the test scores rising despite not teaching the test? Can you see the enthusiasm of students who no longer accept they are incapable of learning?

As a parent of a Macon County child, I would like to see something tangible for this \$1.6M stimulus money we're receiving. And, by hiring tutors, everyone wins. The teachers, the students, the parents, the potential new teachers, and the community. Inspiration, innovation and a thirst for knowledge are contagious when all the instructors share a passion for education. If we can alleviate the burden of teachers by incorporating tutors, we will witness magic in our classrooms.

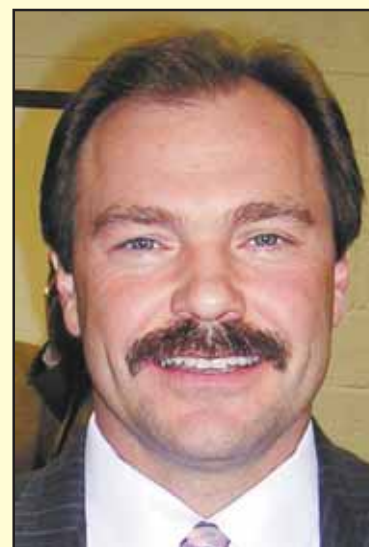
Superintendent Brigman's response

By Dan Brigman

Thank you for taking time to email your suggestions for using the federal stimulus dollars here in Macon County, Ms. deVile. You put a tremendous of time and thought into the idea of using these dollars to fund tutors in our school system and I greatly appreciate your input. I will attempt to clarify some of the issues we are addressing as a school system, particularly with the budget planning process and use of federal stimulus funds.

According to Governor Perdue's recent budget proposal, Macon County is anticipating a loss of teaching positions along with additional discretionary cuts (the state cuts our budget by a certain amount and forces local school systems to identify areas in the state budget to make the cuts) in excess of \$400,000 this coming fiscal year. The federal stimulus dollars are to offset these state reductions. In short, we will experience a "wash" with the Governor's budget proposal as we are given a charge to implement reform strategies for long-term results with the stimulus money.

We now have the Senate's budget proposal that clearly cuts deeper into our current level of operations if funded. The Senate replicated the Governor's plan to use the federal stimulus dollars as a source of revenue to offset state reductions in their budget proposal. In addition to a discre-



Superintendent Dan Brigman

tionary cut, the Senate also proposed an adjustment in class size maximums in K-12 that will result in a loss of additional teaching positions over the next two years. If the Senate's budget passes, we will actually experience cuts in our current level of funding. The net result of the Governor's and Senate budget is that school systems will have to use the Title I and IDEA dollars to offset the state cuts. We now anxiously await the budget proposal from the House.

Our primary goal at this time is to avoid sending personnel home while addressing

district priorities and building capacity for long-term reform throughout our school system. Tutors can be effective but do not provide long-term, systemic reform in schools and districts.

As noted in the past two planning cycles of our school district's Strategic Plan, our district and school-level leaders have identified the integration of Instructional Facilitators (IFs) as a need in our school system to provide support for our teachers to improve teaching and learning. In addition to addressing this district objective, these positions will provide a viable solution for using federal dollars as a funding source to help absorb some of the state cuts and potentially save jobs.

Instructional Facilitators will provide the framework and training for schools to become professional learning communities. This process is intended to provide support to individual teachers while providing opportunities to learn and gain expertise from one another. Also, Instructional Facilitators will have a critical role in the development and deployment of formative and summative assessments, which we currently do not have. Implementation of ongoing assessments and using this data to drive daily classroom instruction is a

• See Q & A page 15

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Greg Strong

An inside look at a police newsletter

Congratulations to Greg on his retirement from the Miami Beach Police Dept. I hope he enjoys it as much as I have. Although I never had the privilege of working shifts with him, he was an outstanding member of our SWAT team. He is a good, honorable man and was one of our best SWAT officers. But that's not why I write about him.

There are always special times during any police career that officers will never forget. I'm blessed with many and this is one of my favorites.

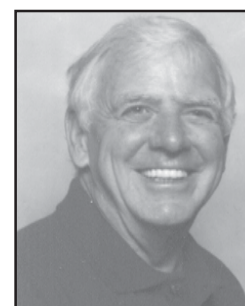
I have a special place in my heart for Greg where I keep this memory. I was just finishing Miami's SWAT school (Was that a 100 years ago?) when I was invited to parachute from a helicopter with a team of SWAT instructors. I freaked at first but then said, "Why not?" Several Miami SWAT cadres were Army Reserve Airborne and could acquire T-10 parachutes from Homestead Air Force Base. Eight officers were invited to make the jump, including Bob Fitzpatrick who I wrote about in my book, *I'm Moving Back To Mars*, and Greg Strong, both experienced paratroopers and outstanding police officers.

The next morning, we met for four hours of training and were teamed up. I was fortunate to draw Greg as my team member. He had made many jumps with the military and I had made, well... absolutely none. After jumping off a park bench in the grassy area next to the Miami Police Dept. without breaking anything, we were deemed fit to make the jump. (I'm not making this up!)

We met our helicopter at the MacArthur Causeway blimp base the next morning and Greg went over the preliminaries with me before boarding. He joked, "Anyone can do this. It's all about gravity, like bird poop." He could see the anxiety on my face. "You'll be fine," Greg calmly said as we loaded into the chopper.

The trip to Florida's Everglades was uneventful. When our chopper began to descend at the prearranged jump site, I could see emergency medical teams had already arrived and spread their equipment on the ground at the drop zone. Seeing those ambulances and all that life support rescue gear sitting there sent chills up my spine. *What have I gotten myself into?* I thought as the chopper touched down in the sawgrass.

Greg and I were scheduled to be on the second jump. That meant I would be able to watch the first team make their jump before it was our turn. That was supposed to be a confidence builder. It wasn't.



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email:
askfredanything@aol.com

Greg knew exactly what was going on in my head. He had been there. What a comfort he was to my frazzled nerves. He had a calming, soft voice and manner about him and went over the jump once more as he helped me put on my chute.

Just when he had convinced me I could do this, Sgt. Bob Sullivan walked up with a knife and pretended to cut off a vital piece of my parachute. All that calming by Greg vanished as Bob handed me what was supposed to be a piece of my

chute and announced, "You won't need this." I knew it was a hoax but I didn't need that on my plate right then. He tied the piece of chute around my neck, making a scarf.

I asked Bob, "I hate to bring this up, but what if I have a malfunction? You didn't cover that yesterday during training." Bob smiled, "You know when you're on a trip and one of those big fat juicy bugs hits your windshield?" Without saying more, he turned and walked away.

Finally, it was our turn to go. As the chopper spooled up, Greg and I sat next to each other with our feet hanging out the bay door. I looked over at him and smiled. He gave me a thumbs-up as the chopper lifted from the sawgrass.

It was so noisy inside the chopper, communication was impossible. I knew I would soon get a tap on my back and I would have to roll forward out of the aircraft. I gave Greg a grim look, distorting my mouth, pretending to be funny when, in fact, my insides were boiling. He laughed and patted my leg, made a fist with his hand and mouthed the words, "Airborne."

Without warning, the jump master patted Greg first and he suddenly disappeared from the aircraft. *Oh crap, this is it*, I thought. Then I felt the pat on my back and without hesitation, I closed my eyes and rolled forward out of the chopper. Seconds later I opened them and saw I was upside down and quickly closed them again.

Obviously, I made the jump successfully but I'm writing to confess to Greg, all my readers and fellow retirees, I would have never left that chopper if it weren't for Greg Strong's calming demeanor. I couldn't have asked for a better partner.

Recently, I finished my second book and it's currently under review. One of the main characters of the book is a tough guy named Greg Strong. I did that in Greg's honor.

Oh, I almost forgot. Greg, old friend, if you ever have another opportunity to parachute again, get someone else.

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Life's roads

I love Florida, not the slick modern Florida of today, but the Florida I remember as a kid, the Florida of six-unit concrete block motels and the Monkey Jungle.

Before there were miles of condos, there were miles of orange trees. Before Disney World and Universal studios, we wondered at the mystery of Spook Hill and bought freshly squeezed juice in gallon jugs.

My brother and I swam every day from the day after Christmas until just after New Year's Day, when we began the long trek back to Indiana and school. We always fought about swimming the morning of departure. Mom fretted over sand and wet swimming trunks in the car. We usually prevailed and Mom suffered the journey north with sand and wet trunks in the car.

Roads were narrow. The drive from Richmond, IN to Hollywood, FL took 36 hours in the days of single-lane roads when every road ran right through the middle of town, and usually divided in deference to a Civil War Monument in the city square.

I marveled at the signs of segregation, but admit with shame that I was not offended, and drank eagerly from the "white" fountain. On the drive south, we stopped in Tennessee and ate a breakfast of grits, eggs, biscuits, and country ham, delicacies which had not made their way north. Pete and I insisted that Mom and Dad complete the grueling drive without stopping to sleep, so eager were we for the beach. Sometimes they agreed. In other years, we would rest in Perry, GA or in those years when Dad opted to avoid Georgia and its speed traps, in Anniston, AL. Our annual family Christmas vacation was the best part of my childhood and ended only when Pete and I reached our teen years and complained that we wanted to be home with our friends.

I was back in Florida today. I visited my brother at Jacksonville's Mayo Clinic. He became terribly ill on an Amazon cruise, was flown by air ambulance to Florida, where he was found to have a tumor which had invaded his spine and clogged his kidneys. The invasion of his spine left his legs flaccid. His right arm was already withered by a stroke suffered several years ago.

There are few things that either Pete or I fear as much as a nursing home. Our Mom spent her last five years of life in a home, and the stench of rot and hot lunch still haunts me. Pete was transferred from Mayo to Cypress Village yesterday. Cypress is a community for old people. There are single houses and condos for the completely independent, and apartments for those who need a little help. There are ponds and manicured lawns, gleaming building and neatly trimmed hedges. But in the end, all roads in the communi-



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

ty lead to assisted living and to the special care unit, a kind of storage space for people too unlucky to die. That's where they put my brother. He'll travel by ambulance each day to Mayo, where he will receive radiation and then chemotherapy. We hope he will regain enough strength to return home. For now he's too weak to join fellow residents for hot lunch in the dining room, so he picks at his meals alone in his room.

Pete's wife and I accompanied him. Two ambulance at-

tendants rolled his litter through the common area. A group of residents sat in a semicircle. Oxygen catheters hung from their nostrils. Some were in wheel chairs, others on little motorized scooters. A man, who looked very out of place, hugged his wife, who had the distant look of Alzheimer's, and looked very much at home. A female employee, dressed in a white nylon uniform stood in front of a karaoke machine. She might have been 55 or 60. Her lips were bright red, her hair looked hard and blond. She stood stiffly, her hand immobile on her thigh as if she had had an accident with super glue. I thought of Morticia Adams with a blond wig. Behind her stood a guy of 45 or so. He wore a Hawaiian print shirt and had fluffed his hair to conceal his balding scalp. She started singing and he jammed on an air guitar. The residents sat emotionless. I guess it's a nice break for them. I just wish Pete hadn't seen it.

It's Sunday morning and I'm driving home. I've crossed the big bridge, the sun is rising on my right. I'm on I-95. Three lanes run north, flat and long, and straight enough to land a 747. I stopped at the Florida Citrus Center and found old Florida. They sell miniature orange trees and coconuts carved in to silly faces with tiny shells for teeth. Tee shirts are three for \$12 and boxes of assorted candies are arranged in the shape of the state of Florida. They sell little plastic cylinders with one saw tooth end, which is designed to be driven into an orange. The invention is intended to permit the user to suck the juice directly from the orange. It didn't work when I was a kid and the design looks unchanged. I'm certain that if I'd searched, I could have found a pecan log. I didn't see the collector spoons or painted shot glasses, but I'm sure they were there. I was in a hurry to get back on the road, but I wish I'd lingered.

Back on the road, I feel energized, euphoric, happy to be alive and in good health, elated to have left Cypress Village in my wake. Classic rock is blaring on the radio. Traffic is flowing smoothly at 80 miles per hour. It is a beautiful morning to be alive, at least it is a beautiful morning to be alive on my terms. I revisited my childhood but left my brother

Reopening

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By Michelle A. Mead-Armor

It's hard to remember life before the piano. We moved to Waynesboro, VA, from Schenectady, NY, where my father grew up. My parents found a modest little house on a corner lot at 236 Loudoun Avenue in 1954. We lived next door to the Luck family, who steadfastly refused to admit the South had lost The War, and catty-corner to the Hewitts, whose pasty-faced daughter Lucy Jane beat me out for the role of Dorothy in

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• HIS & HERS •

The piano

The Wizard of Oz. (I got to be a flower instead. Some things you just never get over.)

My father was not a man who showered his family with presents, so when he bought Maman the piano, it was a huge deal. Daddy ignored birthdays and wedding anniversaries. His one concession to gift giving was to rush out on Christmas Eve, and buy my mother a Whitman sampler and several pairs of Hanes stockings. What possessed my father to drive to Harrisonburg, and purchase the piano astounds us to this day. One day the piano appeared, as if by magic, to hold pride of place in our living room. I don't think I have ever seen my mother's face glow with such happiness. She kept on running her fingers lightly across the keys, and saying "Oh, Albert! Oh, Albert!"

Along with the piano, we got something else, too – piano students. As a young woman, my mother studied piano at the École César-Franck, a music school founded in Paris in January 1935. The school was first located at 240, boulevard Raspail, and then moved to 16, boulevard Edgar-Quinet. Both locations were within walking distance of my grandparent's apartment in the 14th arrondissement, and Maman remembers her mother

walking her to school. My mother's goal had been to teach music, and oddly enough, in a small town in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, she finally got her wish.

The piano was a spinet piano from the Gulbransen Company, established in Chicago, Illinois, in 1904 by Axel Gulbransen, a Swedish immigrant. Gulbransen used a national advertising campaign, and the slogan "Easy to Play" to make the brand one of the best-known of its class. Having a piano was considered a mark of culture and civilization. During World War II, along with Steinway, Gulbransen pianos had the distinction of being selected as one of only two manufacturers of pianos for government use. Some pianos, made specifically for the military, were even army green in color!

Of course, with a piano in the house, it was only a matter of time before my mother started thinking of piano lessons for Eric and me. Maman waited for a year or two, waiting for my small hands to grow big enough to stretch enough to reach an octave. My hands never grew, but my mother went ahead and searched for a piano teacher for me anyway. She felt the learning experience would be easier if the teacher and I weren't related, so my first piano teacher was a strict, humorless lady who gave lessons at Fairfax Hall, the local girls' school. I was terrified of her, but must have learned enough to play decently, since I was included in a piano recital held at the school. The piece I was to play had a repeat in it, after which I was supposed to go on to the final portion. I was so scared that I played the repeat, but drew a complete blank about the rest of the composition. Gamely, I played the repeat once again, and finally remembered the ending. We were all required to play without the sheet music in front of us. Memorization was considered an essential part of our lessons in those days.

My second piano teacher, Mrs. B., was the wife of a local choir director and organist. My lessons started out on an awkward footing. Mrs. B. wanted me to learn only church music and hymns, while my mother insisted on a curriculum of classical composers – Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, and Haydn, just to name a few. My four years with Mrs. B. taught me a great deal about music, and a lot about the South, as well. Any time I answered a question, forgetting to say "Yes, Ma'am" or "No, Ma'am", Mrs. B. would take out her wooden ruler, and whack me across the hands. With a Yankee father and a French mother, the use of "Ma'am" and "Sir" was just not a staple of our vocabulary at home. I didn't like practicing the piano any more than any other child, but I did love to play the piano. If I was happy, if I was sad, I would sit down, and pound out my emotions. It even

made my sessions with Mrs. B. tolerable.

My parents moved from Waynesboro to Erie, Pennsylvania, then to Lamothe Montravel, in Southwestern France, then back to Waynesboro. With each move, our piano was lovingly packed up, and accompanied us. Playing the piano remained one of my great joys. It was very important that I not forget my lessons, and it always pleased me that I could still remember enough to play tolerably well.

My parents enjoyed seeing me sit down to play, but they weren't the only ones. A succession of housecats, starting with our beloved Tiger, and ending with our French

cat, Loulou, would sit quietly next to the bench while I played. No cat ever expressed a preference for one piece over another, however the cats did seem to purr more over Mozart.

My mother has just sold her house, and the new owner takes over on May 1. Repeated trips had emptied the house of all its possessions – all, that is, except the piano. It was important that the piano stay in the family, and I was thrilled when Maman asked me if John and I could find room at Kettlerock to take it. Fortunately, Robert Henry, the wonderfully talented pianist and choir director at Incarnation, was able to help me find a fantastic piano mover, Bob Haynes Piano Moving.

On Saturday night, a huge truck barely made it up our driveway, bringing the piano to its latest home. Heavy traffic on the roads meant that the movers didn't get to Kettlerock until after nine at night, not the best time to unload a piano. In spite of this, three young men did a fantastic job of getting this family heirloom safely tucked into a corner of our living room. Here it sits today, complete with its bench, piano lamp, and the needlepoint runner embroidered by my French grandmother, Suzanne Comte, protecting the keyboard. The scene will be complete this afternoon, after hanging a painting commissioned by Maman over the piano.

What a treat it will be to take out my old sheet music, and sit down to play! Having Maman's piano will be like sharing my home with an old family friend. I realize how rusty I'll be at first – more than 45 years since my first piano lessons. John will just have to grit his teeth, at least in the beginning. As for the cats – Orion and Weasel – well, I sure hope they like Mozart.

About the Author: Michelle A. Mead-Armor 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 and her husband live on top of a mountain on the Continental divide near Highlands. They are members of the Highlands Writers Group. Michelle sings in the choir of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands. A life-long music lover, she is not always sure that music loves her back.



Michelle Mead-Armor &
John Armor
michiemead@aol.com
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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

Be afraid, very afraid...

Ladies and Gentlemen, the party is getting rough. With radical Islam threatening Europe and soon the U.S. and with Islam being preached in our prisons and many converts resulting, one would think that the Department of Homeland Security would be concerned. With aliens pouring across our porous borders, one would think that the DHS would be concerned about immigration. You and I know that Al Qaeda is plotting to attack the U.S. someday soon.



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

information that domestic rightwing terrorists are currently planning acts of violence, but rightwing extremists **may** be gaining new recruits by playing on their fears about several emergent issues." WHAT?

OK, so who should they be worried about? "Threats from white supremacist and violent antigovernment groups during 2009 have been largely rhetorical and have not indicated plans to carry out violent acts." So scratch the skinheads and the "violent antigovernment

What are they concerned about? Veterans. Pro-lifers. States Rights advocates. Second Amendment types, you know, the shoot-from-the-hip guys (who are more responsible than most school district superintendents).

Yeah, I know you think I'm dreaming this stuff up, and I wish I was, but... One of O's brilliant appointments, Janet Napolitano, head of Homeland Security, recently issued a report titled "Unclassified/For Official Use Only - Rightwing Extremism: Current Economic and Political Climate Fueling Resurgence in Radicalization and Recruitment."

In this report, the Office of Intelligence and Analysis in coordination with the FBI, is concerned that citizens with any beef with the government should be considered a threat to the Security of the Homeland. What it is really concerned about is the threat to O's plans to ultimately control the minds and activities of Americans. Afraid yet?

The scope of the Assessment. "This product is one of a series of intelligence assessments published by the Extremism and Radicalization Branch to facilitate a greater understanding of the phenomenon of violent radicalization in the United States. The information is provided to federal, state, local and tribal counter-

terrorism and law enforcement officials so they may effectively deter, prevent, preempt, or respond to terrorist attacks against the United States."

So what is doing the "fueling" of resurgence? More important, what resurgence?

From the report, "The DHS/Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) has no specific

groups." Wait a minute. I thought you just said they weren't planning acts of violence. What violence are they talking about? Have you heard of any antigovernment violence lately? You know what they are talking about? Timothy McVeigh, that's what.

Timothy McVeigh did his evil work 14 years ago this week. Since then, we have been attacked by foreign terrorists (dare I use the word?) who killed 3,000 of us and cost our economy billions of dollars, and they are worried about domestic violence that they say doesn't exist? And how is it the Department of Homeland Security (what a joke) can use the term "domestic terrorists" several times in their report, but we can't refer to the people committed to killing us as "foreign terrorists."

Who is the real threat? Why, the pro-lifers, of course. You narrow-minded extremists who oppose killing babies, you're the bad guys. You are the terrorists.

You and those crazy people who think are borders should be closed to illegal immigration. You nuts who think our laws should be enforced. Yup, YOU ARE THE THREAT!

This is a footnote from this scandalous report. "Rightwing extremism in the United States can be broadly divided into these groups, movements and adherents that are primarily hate-oriented (based on hatred of particular religious, racial or ethnic groups), and those that are mainly antigovernment, rejecting federal authority in favor of state or local authority, or rejecting government authority entirely. It may include groups and individuals that are dedicated to a single is-

• See SWANSON page 8

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• FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

HS Scholarship Fund explained

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Highlands has reorganized the Scholarship Golf Advisory Committee. This committee plans events for the raising of funds for the Town Scholarship Endowment Fund for the purpose of supporting scholarships for students graduating from Highlands School.

This past week this new committee had its first organizational meeting for the planning of the golf tournament at the Cullasaja Club which will be held August 17. It was a good meeting with new and enthusiastic members of the committee in which many new ideas came forth and old ideas were discussed. Gloria Pariseau was elected chairman of the committee. Gloria has eight other energetic members to help her with this important undertaking.

The Scholarship Endowment Fund is now valued at \$785,486 and gives scholarships totaling between \$40,000-\$50,000 to Highlands School graduates each year. Another Scholarship Committee makes the determinations of amounts to each student who is attending schooling after high school. Over the last 20 years, over three quarters of a million dollars has been awarded to our students. It is a record for which we can all be proud. Over these next few months many citizens will be called upon to contribute to this wonderful cause and others will enjoy the camaraderie of joining us for a round of golf at the Cullasaja Club on August 17, enjoying the course along with both lunch and dinner as we auction off donated goods after that dinner. We are grateful to the Cullasaja Board and members of Cullasaja Club for their tremendous support of the Endowment Fund over the past five years. It is time now for one of the other clubs to step up to the plate and do the same over the next few years just as all our private clubs have done in the past.

I might add one other little known piece of history regarding the Scholarship Fund. The fund was originally established under special legislation introduced in the NC General Assembly in 1975 which authorized the governing body of the Town of Highlands to accept funds and administer the scholarship program for Highlands School graduates. This made Highlands one of the few towns in the state and possibly in the nation with legislative authority to administer such a fund. In 1988 the funds from the Scholarship Endowment began to be disbursed each year and have continued every year since then.

On other matters, just a note regarding a change in the Town Board meetings. Be-



Mayor Don Mullen

ginning in June there will be only one scheduled town board meeting per month and that will be on the third Wednesday of each month. Other Special board meeting may be called at any time.

On this past Wednesday night at our board meeting the commissioners approved the concept of renovation of the ABC store as the new Police Station. Stewart-Cooper-Newell Ar-

chitects were hired to present to the board a schematic design and any other future activity beyond this initial schematic design must be approved by the board. This firm has extensive experience in designing and renovating public buildings.

We also approved delaying building any new Town Hall at the present time and approved the renovation of the present Town Hall by J.T. Turner Construction Co at a cost of \$119,000. This company is active in Highlands and will be hiring local workers to do the work. Renovating the current Town Hall will save the town a lot a money and add much needed space to our work place. With the addition of the new Police Station and renovation of the current Town Hall we should be in good shape for the next four or five years. At some time in the fairly near future, however, a new Town Hall is anticipated.

... SWANSON continued from page 7

sue, such as opposition to abortion or immigration."

Afraid yet?

Let's say you are pro-choice and think open borders are swell. However, if you are a veteran of the war in Iraq or Afghanistan, you are on the suspect list. Again, from the report, "The possible passage of new restrictions on firearms and the return of military veterans facing significant challenges reintegrating into their communities could lead to the potential emergence of terrorist groups or lone wolf extremists capable of carrying out violent attacks."

So, if you have an NRA decal on your windshield or a "Where's the Fence" or "Abortion Kills" bumper sticker, you would be well advised to get them off before the ONPF (Obama National Police Force) gets you.

Janet Napolitano is a shill for the Obama thought-control agenda, nothing more. Isn't it ironic that she heads Homeland Security when she is a huge threat to the Homeland? If you aren't at least concerned, you are out to lunch. Please don't vote in the next election.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Shalom y'all



Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor
Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church

I'm just returning from a little vacation, driving through Tennessee and Mississippi. I had gone to have a first-hand experience of country music in Nashville and the blues of the Mississippi Delta with a brief stop at Graceland and a walk in Memphis on Beale Street. But the unexpected treat of the trip was just outside of Utica, MS, inside the Henry James Camp. It's called the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience. It tells a familiar story, common to so many immigrants: escaping religious oppression and seeking economic opportunity. At the museum you can trace Jewish heritage throughout Mississippi. But inside the museum gift shop was the best part of the experience: souvenirs with the words "Shalom Y'all."

We are now well into the Easter Season. For 50 days we unpack the experience the disciples had of the resurrected Jesus. On Easter they are a bewildered, frightened group, hiding out for fear of the Jews. They supposed their fate to be not unlike that of Jesus. But Jesus comes to them, calms their fears, even suppresses their overjoyed response. He has a job for them to do. They cannot do it with fear in their hearts which paralyzes nor can they do it with ecstatic joy which distracts. They need to spread his good news in an even-tempered way. And so, Jesus gives them all his peace. Shalom Y'all.

One is missing for this key event: Thomas. He is devoid of the peace of the risen Christ. He is proud and stubborn, unwilling to receive the peace the other disciples want to give him. He must experience the risen Christ for himself. But Jesus does not come to him individually. A week passes and it is only when the early Christian community is gathered together again, this time with Thomas, that Jesus appears to all of them. The message is the same, to the whole community, including Thomas: Shalom Y'all.

Now Jesus breathes on them, giving them all the Holy Spirit. They are equipped to go out and spread his good news which begins with the forgiveness of sins. They are transformed from disciples, mere followers of Jesus, to apostles, ones sent out to spread the good news. This builds them into a community of faith, one that is reconciled with God and with one another. Without this reconciliation, they cannot remain together. It is the very thing that enables not just their own unity in heart and mind but their capability to call more to share that experience: Shalom, Y'all

We too are to spread this good news. But we can only do it united in faith, reconciled with God and one another. As individuals, we fall into doubt like Thomas. Connected with a community of faith, nurtured in that community not just socially but spiritually, we become equipped like the apostles. We can forgive with the forgiveness that comes from God. We can reconcile one another with God and each other. And we become spreaders of the peace that comes from Jesus. Shalom, Y'all.

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

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Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
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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

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Prayer - 6:30 p.m.

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

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Worship; 6pm High School Group

Tuesdays: 10am Women's Bible Study; 2nd, 4th, & 5th

Tuesdays Young Mom's Bible Study

Wed.: 5pm Dinner; 6pm AWANA, Youth Activities

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Rev. Brian Sullivan - Rector: 526-2968

Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

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

Monday: 4 p.m. Women's Cursillo Group

Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men's Cursillo Group

4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry

Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice

Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

10:30 a.m. Daughters of the King

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

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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

Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor

Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175

Sun.: Worship - 10:55 a.m.; Sun. School - 9:30 & 9:45.

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

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. - Seekers

Wednesdays - Choir - 7

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy

526-3376

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5 p.m. Youth Group

Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 - children, youth, & adults

studies; 6:15 - Adult choir

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

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

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Parish office, 526-2418

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Rev. Clifford Willis

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. - 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore

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Evening Worship - 6 p.m.

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

For more information call 526-3212.

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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

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

School play 'Inner Willy' rocked viewers of all ages

Last week rising kindergarteners from the Highlands Community Child Development Center watched the first act of "The Inner Willy" the Highlands School play on stage at PAC last week. Later, they returned to visit the set with their teachers and directors Ronnie Spilton and Jim Gordon.

Spilton taught them the basics: how to enter the stage, act out parts using two props – the telephone and the radio – and how to take a bow.

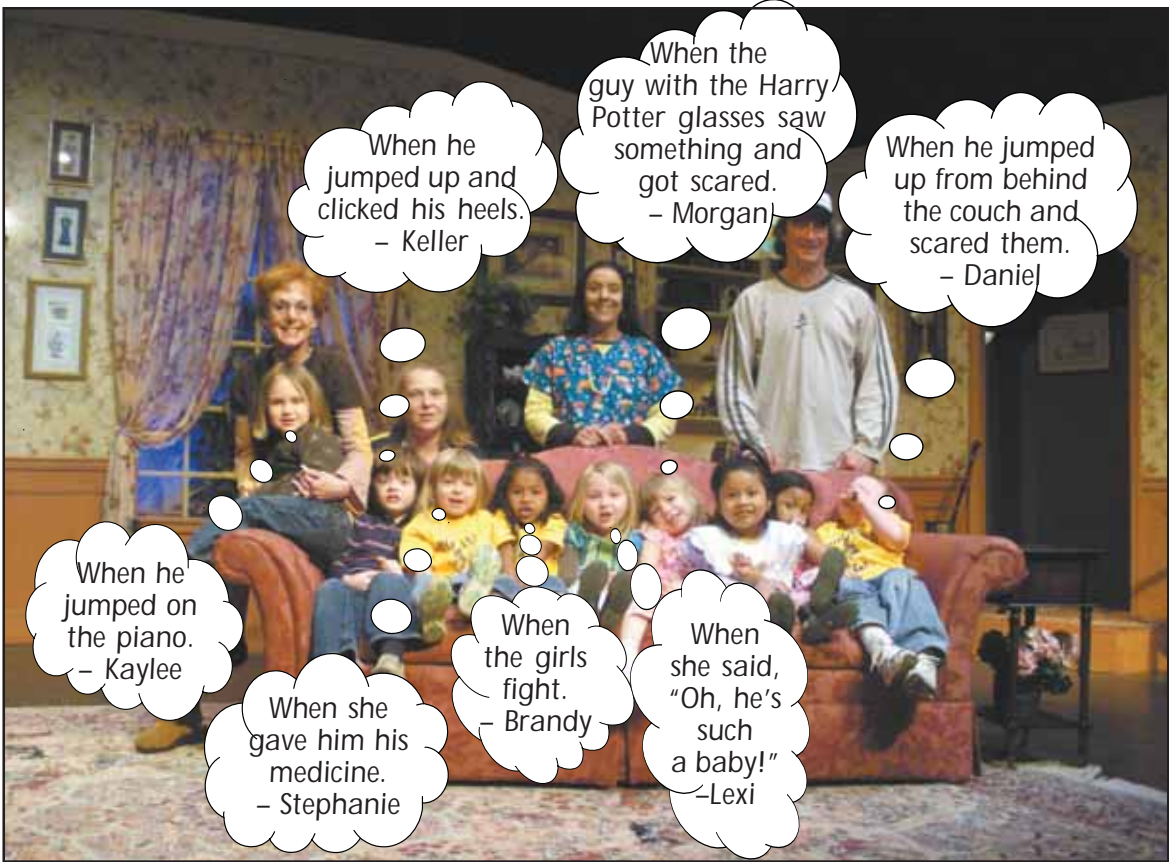
Gordon kept things lively from up in the sound booth by making the phone ring or making music come from the radio when a child turned the knob.

Spilton said she's grooming the next generation of actors she will undoubtedly call on for a future Highlands School play.

When Spilton asked the children what part of the first act of "The Inner Willy" they liked best, here's what some of them said:



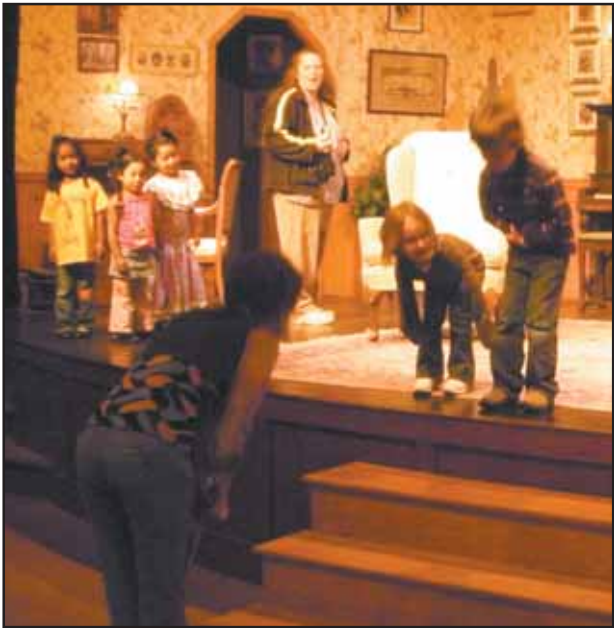
Children could choose whether they wanted to "act" with the phone or the radio. Whichever they picked, Gordon kept things rolling from the sound booth.



Pictured from left are Ronnie Spilton with Kaylee, Keller, Stephanie, Brandy, Lexi, Morgyn, Miranda, Brittany, Daniel and in back Ms. Sarah, Ms. Claudia and Jim Gordon.



Students entered the stage just as actors do.



When the radio was "turned on" and the music began to play, the group danced its heart out.

• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL SOCCER •

By Coach Ryan Potts

The Highlands Girls soccer team rounded back into form after spring break by splitting a pair of games with non-conference rivals Franklin and Swain.

Last Wednesday the girls played a home match with county rival Franklin at Zachary Field. While the game was the Lady Highlanders first in two weeks, they showed little rust early as they matched the Lady Panthers throughout most of the first half.

While the Lady Highlanders played extremely well, they still trailed 1-0 at the half after a missed offside call allowed a Panther forward to get behind the Highlander defense and give the Lady Panthers the opening score.

The second half saw the Lady Highlanders dominate most of the scoring

chances, but the Panther defense held firm and the Lady Panthers managed to add a couple of goals and push the lead to 3-0.

Lady Highlander midfielder Carmen Damian put the home team on the scoreboard in the 60th minute with a tremendous left footed goal from outside the arc, and Highlands continued to fight in the final 20 minutes, putting together several scoring chances before falling to the Panthers 3-1.

On Tuesday, April 21, the Lady Highlanders hosted the Swain Lady Maroon Devils in another non-conference matchup. After a sluggish opening 20 minutes, the Lady Highlanders took control of the game early on the strength of a stellar 10 minutes from center forward Paige Strahan.

Strahan scored three consecutive goals

for the Lady Highlanders in a 10-minute span, the first after deftly maneuvering through three Swain defenders to knock home a goal that would ultimately be the game winner.

After securing a 3-0 lead, the Lady Highlanders came back with a strong second half and numerous scoring opportunities, featuring another goal by Strahan along with a goal from Carmen Damian that gave Highlands the final 5-0 margin.

Every Highlands player was able to play 20+ minutes against the Lady Devils and the younger players for Highlands showed quite a bit of improvement.

The Lady Highlanders played a home game yesterday against the Tuscola Mountaineers, and will travel to conference rival Murphy for their SMC opener today.



Highlanders Carolyn Hornsby and Jessica Gagne at the home game against Swain Tuesday night.

Photo by Noel Atherton

... FORUM continued from page 3

tions to jump on the T.E.A. Party wagon and carry signs depicting our president as a monkey, slandering his color, upbringing and parentage? This man who worships in the Baptist Church, whose mother was white, whose father was black, who went through America's public school system and on to college, the workplace, the U.S. Senate and finally the White House? This man who represents the persona of the melting pot that is America?

The United States of America isn't the same place it was during the time of our Founding Fathers. Things have changed.

There are people of color who are no longer slaves. There are people of every nationality living within our borders who consider America their home. There are people practicing all flavors of religion – Catholicism, Protestant, Judaism, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu – you name it and you'll find it thriving in some part of America. In short, there are people of every race, color, religion and nationality in America whose ancestors came to America — as well as

people who continue to come — precisely because of the freedoms and opportunities it offers on every level.

The people who used the opportunity to protest taxation during the recent T.E.A. Parties as a way to lash out at our president because he is black and his father was Muslim did the T.E.A. Party cause serious harm.

The only message received by the nation as witnessed on all television stations — whether Fox, CNN or MSNBC — was that there is a very un-Christian faction in America that has truly forgotten Jesus' message to love thy neighbor as thy self, and to do unto others as you would have them do to you.

They forget that the First Amendment applies to every citizen of America not just them.

To coin a popular phrase seen on bumper stickers, bracelets and buttons — "What would Jesus Do?"

Certainly not what was witnessed on national television Wednesday night.

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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

Beyond greed



Katie Brugger
k-brugger@hotmail.com

Only a couple of years ago "liberal" was such a dirty word that people wouldn't even say it; instead they said "the L-word." How quickly things have changed. After the Democratic Party's sweep last fall, the ascendance of liberalism has rehabilitated the "L-word." Now the new dirty word is "socialism."

In the last few months I have had letters from conservatives accusing me of being a socialist and insisting that what I have in mind is turning the United States into Cuba or China.

Socialism means many things to many people. Many have the mistaken belief that socialism means totalitarianism. It does not. What I mean when I talk about socialism is the democratic socialism you find in western Europe.

Evolution does not just occur in the physical realm, it also occurs in human cultural and social systems. For many centuries feudalism was the main economic system in place in Europe, in which most people were de facto slaves to the rich. Capitalism emerged from feudalism several hundred years ago, a natural evolution in economic relationships where people were increasingly free to pursue economic opportunity. I believe that socialism is the next step in our economic evolution.

Proponents of capitalism will proudly tell you that capitalism is based on two primal survival forces: fear and greed. They will tell you that this is the reason it is so dynamic and why it has succeeded in bringing wide-spread prosperity. It taps into the instinct of self-interest and, as Adam Smith, the philosopher who first enunciated

the principles of capitalism in his book *The Wealth of Nations* (1776) proclaimed, when everyone works for their own selfish ends it as if an invisible hand works to bring about the best outcome for society as a whole.

A basic premise of capitalism is that the market sets the prices and value for things more accurately than any other system. As I pondered that idea, I found myself thinking about the bonuses recently paid to the people in the financial industry after they had destroyed the economy. How exactly is a hedge-fund manager's value worth so much more than a public-school teacher's? The market "values" that hedge-fund manager's worth at \$50 million a year, while the teacher is lucky to make \$50,000. Is the hedge-fund manager really *one-thousand times* the value of a teacher?

I gave the above example to an email correspondent who is trying to convince me of the errors of my liberalism, and his response was predictable: capital is scarce while teachers are a dime-a-dozen; the hedge-fund manager takes great risks and is rich one year and broke the next while the unionized teacher has it easy.

But what appeared to me to be the biggest difference between our thinking was the meaning of the word "value." All my correspondent seemed to be concerned with was money. When I considered "value" I thought of the children that teacher nurtured over the course of her career.

Capitalism is an amoral system. I could say immoral, because the most positive response I have received for one of my columns was for one written almost two years ago: "The Seven Deadly Sins are Now Virtues" (April, 2007). The column began, "A few years ago I read Kevin Phillips' *Wealth and Democracy* and a passage has stuck with me ever since. A research firm called SRI International had written that what were once the 'seven deadly sins' — pride, gluttony, envy, sloth, greed, lust, and wrath — are capitalism's virtues. For some time now I have felt there is a flaw in capitalism but struggled to find a way to express it, and this may be it."

I say amoral instead because capitalism—and proponents would say this is a plus — does not take morality into consideration. But I believe that humans have higher impulses than the base animal instincts of fear and greed, and that these are also strong motivating factors in our social behavior. These impulses are moral. The first of these is the instinct for cooperation.

A couple weeks ago *New York Times* columnist David Brooks — no liberal — published a piece called "The End of Philosophy," in which he wrote, "[I]n recent years there's an increasing appreciation that evolution isn't just about competition. It's also about cooperation within groups. Like bees, humans have long lived or died based on their ability to divide labor, help each other and stand together in the face of common threats. Many of our moral emotions and intuitions reflect that history. We don't just care about our individual rights, or even the rights of other individuals. We also care about loyalty, respect, traditions, and religions. We are all the descendents of successful cooperators."

Civilization is built on cooperation; the division of labor. Each of us no longer has to do the labor required to feed, clothe, and house ourselves. Other people make my clothes, grow my food, and build my house, so I can be free to write columns and film TV shows.

We are intertwined deeply. I am completely dependent upon you, and you, and...

Capitalism is like a teen-ager who thinks she knows it all and is completely

independent. Capitalism is based on the illusion that we are independent actors. The truth is we are profoundly *dependent*; on each other, on the whole, on society. Socialism recognizes that interdependence.

Another strong motivating factor is our inner drive to express ourselves. A conservative reader of my column asked me to answer a common question about socialism: if everyone's needs are taken care of won't everyone just stop working and instead do nothing?

The answer: this presumes that people work for money only. I believe there is an innate drive to produce, to contribute, and this is as powerful an urge as the need for money. Thorstein Veblen, in his "The Theory of the Leisure Class" called this the "instinct for workmanship." This winter I watched the film "How Green Was My Valley," about a mining town in Wales torn apart by a strike. In one scene some of the men express their frustration that their source of self-worth — doing a job well — has been taken from them. It wasn't just the money they missed; they felt like they had lost their dignity by not being engaged in productive labor. Capitalism is not a very good system to serve this innate need.

I believe that a socialist system, by providing the safety net that ensures our physical needs are taken care of, would allow people greater freedom to fulfill this higher human need to serve, to contribute, to make a difference.

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

... LETTERS from page 2

cles written from a very left wing paper, she also downplays the Reagan years, and then she tries to UP GRADE Clinton!

The proof she gives for her figures are written by the IRS, which is stupid. Of course they want it to sound good, THEY want your money. But I lived through Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George W. H. Bush, Bill Clinton and so on, and yes, the debt went up in the Reagan years, but it had to so we could get out of the fix Jimmy Carter got us into. But to think the economy actually boomed in the Clinton years is silly. Right there is when this bubble began to burst. That is why the banks today are in so much trouble, the quota's that had to be met so the economy would look good in this term.

As for her defense of the IRS, well she forgot to mention that 40% of Americans do not even pay taxes. She also did not mention that it cost American taxpayers \$2 trillion dollars a year to fund the IRS alone. She didn't mention that a fair tax would eliminate the IRS and place the tax burden on ALL Americans, Increase revenue, etc.

We are \$4 trillion dollars in debt, \$2 trillion dollars of that goes to the IRS, just to operate. Eliminate that, pay down the debt, add the fair tax, then every American becomes a taxpayer and you pay for what

• See LETTERS page 22

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Middle School dance to be featured on Nickelodeon May 24

In just a few short years, Highlands School's Middle School Spring Fling has hit the big time.

When the producers of Nickelodeon "googled" for a middle school dance that was taking place in April – in time to be included in their upcoming special on dating in middle schools set to air May 24 at 9 p.m. – up popped Highlands School.



Consequently, on Friday, April 17, they headed to Highlands to film middle school boys and girls getting ready for, arriving for and interacting at the dance — held this year at the Highlands Inn.

Producers decided to follow Anne Marie Crowe and Phillip Murphy as they prepared for the dance. Anne Marie and friends got ready at Ali Bolt's house. Once at the dance, however, everyone was a star.

Kara Potheir, with Nickelodeon, said students from six middle schools nationwide were interviewed but the Highlands Middle School Spring Fling will be the only dance featured.

"The purpose of the special is to document the initiation into dating at the middle school level," said Potheir. "What we found is that dating at that age involves walking to class and hanging out in groups – sort of a practice run to see who gets along with who."

At the fling, students rocked to DJ Murphy's selections and enjoyed finger foods and drinks.

Photos by Kim Lewicki



Left, Anne Marie Crowe and Phillip Murphy smile for the cameras and above Nickelodeon cameraman films "girl talk."



Crews try an over-the-crowd shot while a student break dances in the center of the group.



Crew waits while girls give a quick dance lesson.

... Q & A continued from page 3

huge gap for us here in Macon County.

An additional purpose of moving some existing veteran teachers who have demonstrated success in the classroom into the role of Instructional Facilitator is to teach teachers how to analyze a wealth of performance data in order to improve teaching and increase student learning. Instructional Facilitators will help teachers become better at their craft so that all students have access to better, differentiated instruction throughout the professional's teaching career. I think a key for all of us is that the IF model is present in many, if not most school systems in our region and state. School districts often call them curriculum specialists, instructional coaches, teacher coaches, etc. The difference in the IF model for Macon County is in the clearly defined roles and responsibilities and the placement of the IFs in the schools to directly support teachers and principals. All federal programs support this type of model and the model enables the school system to meet many federal requirements of early intervention, improving teaching and learning, development of standards and assessments, school improvement, etc.

In regards to the IDEA funds, we must look at both building capacity and direct student intervention because the purpose of special education is individualization for students with disabilities.

As we implement the Responsiveness to Instruction (RTI) process in our schools, we are looking at how to best provide support to teachers to make this research-based approach successful for our students.

One possible use of these funds currently under consideration by Mrs. Paula Ledford, Director of Exceptional Children and her department is exactly what you are suggesting: contracting with "interventionists" to assist with direct intervention for students within the RTI process at each school. These individuals would be specifically trained to provide research-based, intensive, direct intervention for groups of students.

The students would be grouped based on the performance data gained from the assessments noted above as well as other assessments.

On-going progress monitoring will be taking place to assure that the interventions are being implemented with fidelity and each in-

tervention is appropriate to assist the child in making progress.

In addition, the funds can be used to purchase materials and provide training on research-based practices that will address the tier 2 and 3 intervention groups identified through the RTI process, ultimately assuring that all schools have access to a variety of instruction based on individual student needs. This approach for utilizing these IDEA funds is still in the preliminary planning stages.

Hopefully, the budget outcome will result in greater support for PK-12 education in our state while allowing federal dollars to be used for innovative programs and processes for long-term improvements.

Again, thank you for taking time to provide such thorough suggestions to my office and our Board of Education for the use of federal stimulus dollars. Your input is greatly appreciated. Please feel free to call or email if you have additional comments, questions, or concerns.

deVille's final word

Thank you so much for taking the time to respond to my proposal.

If I understood you correctly, you stated:

- Macon County will face budget cuts in excess of \$400K for fiscal year 2009 – 2010.

- Those cuts will likely result in (a) teacher layoffs, (b) hiring freezes, and/or (c) increased class sizes.

- The \$1.6 million in federal stimulus money is to be used to create a long-term strategy to improve our schools.

- You believe the best use of this \$1.6 million is to spend it on people who train teachers to be better teachers.

I know that you want to do the right thing for the students in our school system.

What I am proposing is that we also consider addressing the problem of student performance and tailoring instruction better to the needs of individual students.

I recognize that with a limited budget, hard decisions have to be made. After numerous interviews, research and reflection, it appears to me that tutors are a better choice than facilitators.

For the rest of this response, please go to www.tinyurl.com/tutors1

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going Events

• Registration is now open for the 2009 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 8-11), "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.

• Friends of Panthertown work days, last Thursday of every month (time and location varies). Volunteers needed to maintain trails. For more information, contact Nina Elliott at 828-526-9938 (ext 258).

• Refuge Youth meets every Sun. night at 6:30 p.m. downstairs at Cullasaja Assembly of God. If you are in grades 6th-12th then this is the place to be! The church is located at 6201 Highlands Rd. next to Exxon. For more info call youth ministers Matt and Candace Woodroof at 828-369-7540 ext 203.

• 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.

• 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 Woodruff room 201, 10 a.m. until noon. Call Barbara Buchanan at 526-1402 or Florence Flanagan at 743-2567.

Mon. & Wed.

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

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park, 8-9 a.m. \$10 per class or \$50 a month.

Wed., & Fri.

• Open AA meeting noon at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

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

• Closed AA meeting, 8 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

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

Tuesdays

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

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

• Closed AA Women's meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

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.

Wednesdays & Fridays

• Open AA meeting at noon at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

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.

Thursdays

• Al-Anon meeting, noon at the Episcopal Church on Main and Fifth streets.

2nd & 4th Fridays

• Community Drum Circle at the Highlands Rec Park, from 6-7:30 p.m. All ages are encouraged to attend this free event. All experience levels welcomed. Bring your own drum or percussion instrument. Some extra drums and percussion will be supplied. For more information call 421-0551.

Fridays & Saturdays

• At Highlands Wine & Cheese, at Falls on Main, complimentary wine samplings during business hours.

Saturdays

• At Highlands Wine & Cheese, Falls on Main, Wine Flights from 4-6:30 p.m. Five wines, artisan cheeses and

specialty foods. \$19 per person.

Thursday, April 23

• Vilda Brannen, M.S., will speak on "Managing Stress during these Stressful Times" at Chestnut Hill Senior Living Community Clubhouse at 4:30 pm. The event is free and open to the public, and will be held at 44 Clubhouse Trail, Highlands. Brannen is a Licensed Professional Counselor at Trillium Springs, LLC, in Atlanta and Highlands. She will share key tips on healthy ways to manage and relieve stress and reduce its harmful effects. Light refreshments will be served. For information, please call 526-5251.

• Community Bible Church, Highlands, is hosting Town Hall for Hope, an simulcast event hosted by Dave Ramsey University. This free event will be held at 8 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The purpose of this event is to discuss the current economy and how to take steps toward hope. Questions? 828-526-4685 or www.cbchighlands.com

Friday-Sunday, April 24-26

• The annual NC WILD FOODS WEEKEND will be held at the Betsy-Jeff Penn 4H Center near Reidsville, NC. People from all over the East will take to the woods and fields to learn about edible wild plants, meet other foragers, and celebrate spring. The climax of the weekend will be a WILD FEAST composed of collected foods prepared by the partic-

Dinner at Nick's Restaurant to benefit Bosnia Farm Initiative

The Bosnian Community Farm Initiative, Inc. (BCFI), a local non-profit organization based in Sylva, will be hosting two events in Highlands in support of its mission to rebuild and reconnect small farm communities in eastern Bosnia.

The BCFI grew from its roots at First United Methodist Church in Sylva, and includes Pastor Paul Christy of Highlands United Methodist Church as a member of its board of directors.

Under Pastor Christy's leadership and inspired by his commitment to peace and reconciliation, a core group of local volunteers has completed a total of four barns and offered four pregnant dairy cows to families in the Srebrenica municipality. The BCFI has chosen to focus its work in the Srebrenica municipality based on the region's dramatic history and current need.

Today, over a decade after the signing of the Dayton Accord, communities struggle to overcome division, as well as the physical and emotional costs of war. Many people remain internally displaced, living still in collective centers or minimally refurbished homes.

In observing its core values of community, sustainability, solidarity, humility, respect, relationships, and faith through action, the BCFI is committed to serving families and widows working to rebuild the sense of community offered by traditional agrarian principles.

The milk and milk products from a healthy dairy cow can either be consumed, bartered, or sold locally, and the offer of a pregnant animal provides an additional opportunity for trade or income.

The work of the BCFI also supports the local economy beyond the beneficiary families served. It is estimated that in buying local building materials, purchasing local livestock, hiring local contractors and interpreters, and in supporting local hotels and restaurants, the organization contributes nearly \$10,000 per beneficiary family to the local economy.

In addition to its barn building and livestock projects, in 2007 the BCFI worked with municipal leaders in refurbishing a local spring site, and in 2008 members of the board of directors participated in a tour of local health facilities with the support of Rotary International.

Nick's Fine Foods will be hosting a dinner event in support of the BCFI on Thursday, May 14, with dinner served at 6 p.m. Tickets will be \$50 per plate, and as always, Nick's will provide a choice of delicious entrees accompaniments. Non-alcoholic beverages are included, and a cash bar will be available. For more information, please contact Patty or Dori at 526-2706.

For more information, about BCFI, please visit www.thebcfi.org, or stop by Pastor Christy's office at HUMC for a visit!

'Rumors' in the works at HCP

What do a senior Georgia Superior Court Judge, a bookstore owner, a former hospital chaplain and a retired personnel recruiter have in common? They all are in the upcoming Highlands Cashiers Players production of Rumors by Neil Simon, and all are new faces on the HCP stage.

An Atlanta native, superior court judge Hilton Fuller and his wife commute between Atlanta and their home in Scaly Mountain on a regular basis. Rumors is the first time he has had a speaking part with HCP, although he appeared in the hospital and hotel scenes of the HCP production I Remember Mama. As befitting a judge, Hilton plays the part of Ernie, a level head in the midst of chaos. Although a novice actor, he says that as a trial lawyer for 16 years and a judge for 24, he's used to being on stage.

Clair Simpson, playing Chris, owns Cyrano's Bookshop. Even though she has owned a house in Highlands for years, Simpson did not become a fulltime resident until three years ago. For years, she and her husband had dreamed about owning a bookstore. When Cyrano's became available, they bought it, left Florida, moved and she said they considered it one of the best decisions they've ever made. As might be expected, Simpson enjoys reading and usually finishes about eight to 10 books per week. Rumors is the first time she's appeared onstage since her high school senior play.

Retired personnel recruiter Rich Har-



Join Hilton Fuller, Rich Harrison, Clair Simpson and Robin Phillips next month in the Highlands Cashier Players production of Neil Simon's Rumors. These four are all new faces to the Highlands stage and are sure to delight audiences.

ison is an experienced actor, having appeared in 11 plays in Toledo, Ohio. Born and reared in Tennessee after 40 years in Ohio, he decided return to south. After considerable research on different regions, last September Rich and his wife, April, settled in Sapphire Valley. Since then the Harrisons have enjoyed exploring their new home town. When not performing, Rich enjoys talking politics and watching sports, especially the University of Tennessee football and Kentucky basketball. He plays the part of Officer Welch.

Robin Phillips, the chaplain, recently moved to Highlands fulltime, although she says that Highlands has been her "home away from home" all of her life. Her great-great grandfather, Stanhope Walker Hill, was the first mayor of Highlands. Her great grandfather, Frank Hill, was a carpenter and builder of several homes in the area, including the Staub and Hutchinson-Frost homes. Phillips now lives in her grandmother's renovated home on part of the original Hill property. Although she is a seasoned performer with the Sweet Adelines Quartet, she has her first speaking role on stage as Cookie in Rumors.

Rumors can be seen at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center May 7-10 and May 14-17. Because of language and themes, it is appropriate for mature audience only. For ticket information call the box office at 828-526-8084 or visit online at www.highlandscommunityplayers.org.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

ipants. Advance registration is required. For more information, call Debbie Midkiff at 919-489-2221.

Friday, April 24

- Frog workshop at the Highlands Nature Center. 8 pm. A program for adults on regional frogs including identification of species visually and by their calls. Educators can receive science CEU or NCEE criteria II credit. Bring a flashlight. Free for Highlands Biological Foundation members, \$1 for non-members. Advanced registration is required. Call 526-2623 for more information.

- Mountain Air Wellness Centers Take Charge of Your Health Lecture Series continues at Tommy's Coffee Shop in Cashiers from 1 - 1:30. Topic: Mental Health. Free to the public and presented by Dr. Sue Aery. For more information, call the Cashiers office of Mountain Air Wellness Centers. 828-743-9070.

Saturday & Sunday, April 25 & 24

- The Highlands Playhouse will hold open auditions for their 2009 season at the playhouse on Saturday and Sunday from 1-5 p.m. The Playhouse is located on 362 Oak Street next to the ABC Store. Come prepared with a headshot/ resume and two monologues – one comedic and one dramatic – 2 minutes in length. If you are interested in participating in our Shakespeare in the Park series, please prepare a brief selection from any Shakespearean piece. If questions, please contact us at highlandspayhouse@yahoo.com.

Saturday, April 25

- The next Highlands Plateau Greenway trip will be Saturday to build rock-on-rock steps in two locations and continue side hill trail work on the lower portion of the new loop. If you are interested in participating call Hillrie Quin at 526-2385 Meet at the large parking lot behind the Rec Park at 9 a.m. for a brief orientation session and then walk to the trail

sections for construction. Participants will be furnished the necessary tools and safety equipment. Bring water, lunch, rain gear, a day pack to hold everything. Boots and layers of clothing that can get dirty are advised.

- Democratic County Convention at the Macon County Courthouse in Franklin. 9 a.m. until noon. Macon County officers will be elected and a vote on referendums will be taken.

- Earth Day celebration at the Village Green in Cashiers 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event is free, rain or shine. Enjoy live music, interactive demonstrations, food, a climbing wall and more.

- At the Earth Day Celebration, at the Village Green in Cashiers, the HUMC youth will be manning a Baked Potato Bar. Patrons will be served baked potatoes with all the fixings. The Highlands United Methodist Church Youth Group which is traveling to Haiti this June on a mission trip. For information on these projects or the youth and their mission trip, call 526-3376.

- The Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center will be have a Gorge Litter Sweep Saturday. Breakfast at 8 a.m., Lunch at 11 a.m., at the Visitor Center. Please RSVP by calling Jan at 828-526-2112.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3.3-mile "wildflower hike" in the Whitewater River Gorge with some scrambling required for the first quarter mile. Meet at Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 or Wachovia Bank in Cashiers at 9:50 a.m. Drive 50 miles round trip. Bring cameras, lunch, water and rain protection. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

- A free skin cancer screening will be offered by 11 Asheville dermatologists and Mission Hospital Cancer Ser-

vices Saturday, at the Asheville Mall. No advance appointments are needed; just come. Registration will be open from 8 am to 5 pm. Have your body visually examined by a dermatologist for suspicious moles and possible skin cancers. Anyone who has a suspicious mole is encouraged to come, especially if the mole has changed in size or shape. People will be screened on a first come, first serve basis. The event will take place in the large open area inside the mall between Victoria's Secret and Belk.

- The North Georgia Children's Chorus will present a free concert at Highlands United Methodist Church on Saturday, at 3 p.m. The chorus is directed by Ruth Purcell, whose pioneering effort has established the first children's choir in the Dahlonega, GA area. They are accompanied by Dr. Joe Chapman, professor of piano performance at North Georgia University. Also accompanying and performing with the chorus is the Purcell Family Band, a family trio featuring fiddle, guitar, and acoustic bass. This concert is family-friendly, and children are encouraged to attend.

Sunday, April 26

- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin. Service and Children's Service begin at 11 a.m. The Fellowship is located at 85 Sierra Drive, just off Lakeside, 1.2 miles from Hardees. All are welcome. For information, call: 828/524-6777

- From 6- 8 p.m., Sweet Treats is donating 15% of its sales to the Highlands United Methodist Church Youth Group which is traveling to Haiti this June on a mission trip. For information on these projects or the youth and their mission trip, call 526-3376.

- The High Mountain Squares are having a SPECIAL BENEFIT DANCE for caller Rudy Saunders from Monroe GA. Rudy is undergoing treatment for lung cancer. The dance is at the Macon County Community Building on route 441 from 1-5 p.m. There will be many callers and all proceeds will go for the benefit. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-349-4187, or 706-782-0943.

Tuesday, April 28

- "Sogetsu Designs: Using Two or More Containers," at its meeting on Tuesday at the Folk Art Center, Milepost 282

The Bascom uncorks two-day wine extravaganza May 29-30

A flood of scrumptious domestic and international wines will take top shelf at The Bascom's annual Collective Spirits wine festival, set for May 29-30. With wines from New Zealand, Italy, France, Spain and Argentina to California, Oregon, Washington and north Georgia, organizers are pulling out all the stops in bringing a full range of different wineries to Highlands for the event.

More than 100 different wines will be poured at Collective Spirits, which also features a silent auction, fare by 12 local chefs, and symposiums by leading U.S. wine specialists, all capped off by a gala seated dinner on the art center's new terrace, followed by a live auction of exceptional wines and special wine-related items.

Collective Spirits is the first event at the "new" Bascom, and all proceeds raise money for the nonprofit visual arts center.

"People will have the opportunity to



Carolyn and Rhett Tanner flank Mary Ann Hardman, center, of Persimmon Creek Vineyard, one of many wineries pouring at The Bascom's Collective Spirits wine festival May 29-30. Tickets are on sale now at www.collectivespirits.com.

are also available.

The presenting sponsor of the event is Bank of New York-Mellon. Old Edwards Inn & Spa is the premier hospitality sponsor. Other corporate sponsors are First Citizens Bank, Harry Norman Realtors/Pat Allen and Bert Mobley, brokers; Highlands Wine & Cheese Shop; The Laurel magazine; and WNC magazine. Highlands Wine & Cheese Shop is the official wine retailer of the event.

taste many wines they might not know and truly expand their palate at Collective Spirits," said Donna Woods, The Bascom's events director. "Having such a tremendous variety really establishes us as a grand-scale wine festival."

Tickets for the wine festival are on sale now at www.collectivespirits.com or (828) 526-4949. Prices start at \$100. Benefactor and corporate sponsorship opportunities

Ruby Cinema

Hwy. 441, Franklin, NC

524-3076

April 24-30

STATE OF PLAY rated PG-13

Friday: (4:20), 7:05, 9:20

Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:20), 7:05, 9:20

Mon – Thurs: (4:20), 7:05

17 AGAIN rated PG-13

Friday: (4:15), 7:10, 9:15

Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:15), 7:10, 9:15

Mon – Thurs (4:15), 7:10

HANNAH MONTANA THE MOVIE

rated G

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

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

Mon – Thurs: (4:10), 7

FAST & FURIOUS rated PG-13

Friday: 7:15, 9:30

Sat & Sun: 7:15, 9:30

Mon – Thurs: 7:15

MONSTER vs. ALIENS rated PG

Friday: (4:30)

Sat & Sun: (2:15), (4:30)

Mon – Thurs: (4:30)



Upcoming Book Signings

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e-mail: cyranos@nctv.com

April 30

3-5 p.m.

Susan Rebecca White

Bound South

May 23

2 to 4 pm

Jack Riggs

The Fireman's Wife

June 24

1-3 p.m.

Mary Kay Andrews

The Fixer Upper

TBA

Cassandra King

(untitled - Set in Highlands)

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HOUSEKEEPER: Happy person who loves clean homes needed in Sapphire Valley once per week May through October. 561 706-7555. 4/30

TECHNOLOGY SAVVY CUSTOMER FRIENDLY? NEW OWNERS of the Highlands Radio Shack seeking part time employees. Call 526-3350 or stop by for application. Ask for Josh or Wendi. Email: trilliumt@gmail.com (st. 4/23)

HIRING FOR TWO NEW RESTAURANTS - Back of the house and front of the house needed. Call 526-3380 or 342-5174.

RN NEEDED FOR UPSCALE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY. 8 hours per week. Apply at Chestnut Hill, 64 Clubhouse Trail, Highlands, NC. Or email your resume to dotty.guenther@gmail.com. Drug screening and background check. EOE.

THE TOWN OF HIGHLANDS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME IT PROFESSIONAL (16-24 hrs/week). This person should have knowledge of a server/client environment and a background in web design and programming, particularly in .html and .asp. For information about this position, direct inquiries to Matt Shuler at the Highlands Town Office (828) 526-2118.

MEDICAL ASSISTANT/NURSE - needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Physician office setting, full-time position available. Current certification and/or NC license and BLS required, ACLS recommended. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RECEPTIONIST - needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Physician office setting, full-time position available. Previous medical/family practice office experience required. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 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.

CNA OR CNA II at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. PRN positions are available. Our wage scale is \$11.00 to \$14.40 per hour, and you also receive shift and weekend differentials. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Human Resources, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

LOST & FOUND

LOST - A MALE BLACK Cat, Keesa, lost in vicinity of Mt. Lori and N. Cobb. Wearing a hot pink rubber flea collar. Please call Tanya at 828-301-3690, 526-1706 or cell: 828-301-3696.

FOUND: POOL CUE. Call 404/237-4333

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3-BEDROOM, 2 1/2 BATH. New paint inside and out. New carpet. Below Appraisal. \$199,000. Cashiers Area.

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GOOD HOUSE FOR \$139,500 - 3 bed, 2 bath, high elevation, pond. Call Ann at Cabe Realty 828-526-2475.

FOR SALE BY OWNER - 535 N. 4th Street. Zoned Commercial. \$389,000. Currently rented at \$2,500 a month. Call 770-827-0450. (st. 2/19)

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HIGHLANDS GARAGE APARTMENT - Within town limits. Quiet, cozy, wood panelled. Living room, bedroom, bath, kitchen, balcony, newly painted and carpeted. One person. No pets. Six month minimum, furnished. \$425/mo, incl. utilities, except electric. Call 404-892-2090 or 828-526-4445. 4/30

IN-TOWN HIGHLANDS. 2Br/2Ba House, W/D, hardwood floors, fenced-in yard, large deck, No smoking/pets, \$1,000/mo, long-term rental, available May 1st, Green Mountain Realty Group 828-526-9523. 4/23

DAYLIGHT BASEMENT APARTMENT FOR RENT - (3 minutes from Highlands/Cashiers Hospital) Recent and complete renovation. Fully furnished. 1 bedroom/1 bath, kitchen, dining area, living room, washer/dryer, cable connection, fireplace. \$600 monthly, includes water, sewer, electricity. Single family. References required. No pets. No smoking. Call Jim at 1-770-789-2489

TWO-STORY APARTMENT FOR RENT - (3 minutes from Highlands/Cashiers Hospital), Recent Renovation. Fully Furnished. 2 bedrooms/2 baths. 3 extra-large closets. kitchen with dishwasher and new JennAire cook stove, dining area, living room, native stone fireplace, washer/dryer, cable and telephone connection. \$1,000 monthly. Includes water, sewer, electricity. Single family. References required. No pets. No smoking. Call Jim at 1-770-789-2489

APARTMENT FOR RENT - 1 bed, 1 bath, living area, kitchen and utility room. \$650/month. \$300 security deposit. First and last month rent. Rent includes utilities,

(electric, water, heat, local phone) One year lease. Prefer non-smoker. No pets. Unfurnished. Good for 1-2 people. Call 526-9494.

DOWNTOWN FURNISHED! Spacious 1/1, full kitchen, walk in closet, balcony, small pets allowed. 526-3363 Call for appt. (st 3/5)

FOR RENT AND SALE - 2/2 condo, LR, DR, Sun room, W/D. Walk to town. Available year round. Call 828-421-2144

HOUSE FOR RENT, YEAR-ROUND, walk to town. 3/3, oil heat, hardwood floors, small pets ok. \$1,275 includes electric. 526-5558.

DOWNTOWN APARTMENT RENTAL - One bedroom (Queen), one bath, vaulted ceiling in great room, heat and air with gas fireplace. Fully furnished with W/D, cozy and comfortable. Reduced to \$650 a month plus utilities. Call 526-4983 or 421-3614.

1 BED, 1 BATH and small room with bunk beds on Lake Sequoyah. Furnished, two boats. \$800 a month including utilities except phone. No pets, no smoking. Call Tony at 828-332-7830.

SAPPHIRE NC - 2 Story 3Bed/3 Bath, Yr round views, 2 decks, remodeled, Furnished, 2 car garage. Available yearly or seasonal. 561-626-9556

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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 20

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James "Popcorn" Manley
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... CANINE RUBY continued from page 1

though human eyes couldn't locate Lewis, it only took Ruby eight minutes to find him a few blocks away behind a home at 283 Oak Lane.

Sometime during Sunday night, after he'd grabbed a bite to eat at Highlands' Hill Deli around 8:30 p.m., he'd walked down Oak Lane, slipped on the rain-slicked grass along the roadside and slid down the sloped site, out of sight behind the house.

There he spent the night, on the ground in the rain so except for his torso, which was protected by his Patagonia jacket, and his head which was protected by his signature tweed cap, he was freezing cold and soaking wet from his leather shoes, to his corduroy pants and belt.

Rescue personnel said he was conscious and knew most of them by name, but to be safe, he was transported to Highlands-Cashiers hospital where he was warmed up and is being kept for observation.

"If we didn't have Ruby, who is cross-trained for narcotics and search, we would have had to wait for a search dog to be delivered from Franklin and the window of time that may have saved Mr. Dorn's life, could



Pam Brown with Canine Ruby and Officer Cherry.

something you'd expect in a big city right here in this little town," she said.

Chief Harrell commended the collaborated effort between the Highlands Fire & Rescue who responded with ATVs, Highlands EMS crews, his department and county rescue crews who all responded to the call for help.

He said this isn't the first time Ruby has been successful and he's sure it won't be the last.

"This is a prime example why it pays to have a 'staff' canine in Highlands," he said. "There are numerous times when it is a 'must.'"

have closed," said Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell. "Having Ruby readily available, enabled us to respond and find him literally in a matter of minutes."

Brown said she was amazed at the promptness displayed by rescue and law enforcement personnel and impressed by how well they worked together - each performing their part like clockwork.

"It was all so professional and they interacted like

... WORKSESSION from 1

will be to assist with the removal of abandoned mobile homes by offering a \$1,000 toward the demolition and removal of the home to the landfill.

Being reimbursed the \$1,000 - should an owner sell the property immediately after the eyesore of an abandoned home is removed - concerned the board.

"In those cases, if we don't request the money back, we will have subsidized people's private interests and I don't think that's right," said Solid Waste Director Chris Stahl.

Commissioners Jim Davis and Brian McClellan said the county will get the money back in a roundabout way through sales and property taxes.

However, the board asked County Attorney Lesley Moxley to write up a contract that will protect the county and ensure it will be reimbursed the \$1,000.

They also agreed that next Monday they will vote to try the program for one year and will budget \$12,000 toward the removal of 12 abandoned mobile homes.

Health Director Jim Bruckner was on hand to provide a detailed look at the issues facing the Private Drinking Water Well Program as mandated by the NC General Statute Administration Code.

The lack of personnel coupled with the increased workload due to the rules sent down from the state continue to tax the health department which handles seven areas of "health" in the county.

A point of contention between area well diggers and the county is the turnaround time it takes from the time a well is drilled and grouted until the county can sign off on it.

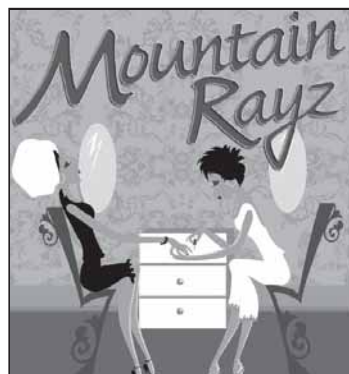
Previously, well-diggers were allowed to self-inspect if the county couldn't be on site within two days, but that has changed.

•See WORKSESSION page 21

\$17 weekly

• SERVICE DIRECTORY •

\$17 weekly



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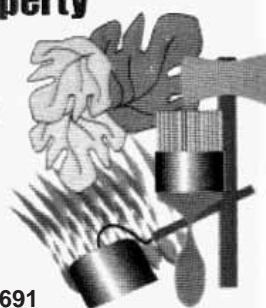
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• FUN & GAMES •

... WORKSESSION from page 20

However, Bruckner and the county's new Well Diggers Association are working with Rep. Haire on Bill 1246 to enact a change in the rules which would allow well contractors to self-certify all grouts.

Though development has slowed in Macon County, Bruckner said work in his department has been steady and an application for a 45-septic site came in Monday.

He asked to increase permit fees so his department could support itself and thereby justify the hiring of more inspectors.

That segued into the final discussion Monday night concerning the budget.

Finance Director Evelyn Southard said back in January she and County Manager told the board that it was likely that the 2008-09 budget would be off by \$100,000 – even after the \$1.4 million in department cuts – and that estimate stands.

Though that isn't great news, compared to many other counties in North Carolina, Macon County is still doing well with sales tax revenues expected to be down only \$449,841 by June 30.

The return on investments has dropped considerably which has hurt the county.

She suggested taking \$2.7 million from the undesignated fund balance to offset the decrease in revenue and handle remaining expenditures – mainly Highlands School renovations and debt service on the \$20 million school loan. She said that will balance the budget while keeping the fund balance at a healthy 27%.

• POLICE & FIRE •

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of April 13. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

April 20

- At 12:30 p.m., a search and rescue with Canine Ruby on 283 Oak Lane where a man who had slipped down a slope on the property was found unharmed.

April 18

- At 9:50 p.m., William Robert Smith, 66, of Highlands, was arrested for DWI on Hicks Road. he was released on a \$500 unsecured bond.

April 20

- At 7:30 p.m., officers conducted a welfare check at a residence at the Mountain Club. Everything was OK.

- During the week the officers issued 20 citations and responded to 3 alarms.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of April 13:

April 15

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at 4 1/2 Street Inn. The victim was taken to the hospital.

- The dept. responded to an accident on U.S. 64 at Raoul Road. There were no injuries.

April 17

- The dept. responded to the call of a brush fire with the possibility of a structure in danger. The fire was extinguished prior to arrival and no structure was damaged.

- The dept. responded to an alarm on Whiteside Mountain Road set off because the fireplace damper was closed.

April 20

- The dept. provided search and rescue for a subject who was missing. He was found and taken to the hospital.

Sheriff busts four more for drugs

Four more people have been arrested in connection with last week's drug arrests by the Macon County Sheriff's Dept.

Arrested were Jacquelyn Ruth Stewart, 23, of Franklin, who was held on a \$10,000 bond; Timmie L. Collins, 39, of Franklin who was held on a \$20,000 bond; Sylvia Plank-Younce, 39 of Clayton, Ga, and Stephanie Mason, 30 of Franklin, who were both federally charged.

Hex-a-Ku[©] 2009

by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook

OBJECT:

A mystery word or phrase using all different letters is designated by circled squares (other short words will appear when solving, for which a list of meanings is provided). Every puzzle has a different mystery word or phrase (no spaces). Assign different letters to each square of each column and row. In addition, 3x2 cells in the puzzle layout have the same different letters. (This is similar to Sudoku but uses letters instead of numbers.)

How to Solve:

Determine the different letters among those given. Write in the mystery word using the clue and these letters. 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 blank squares according to the rules noted above. Focus your attention where the least number of letters are needed to complete a row, column or cell.

Mystery Word

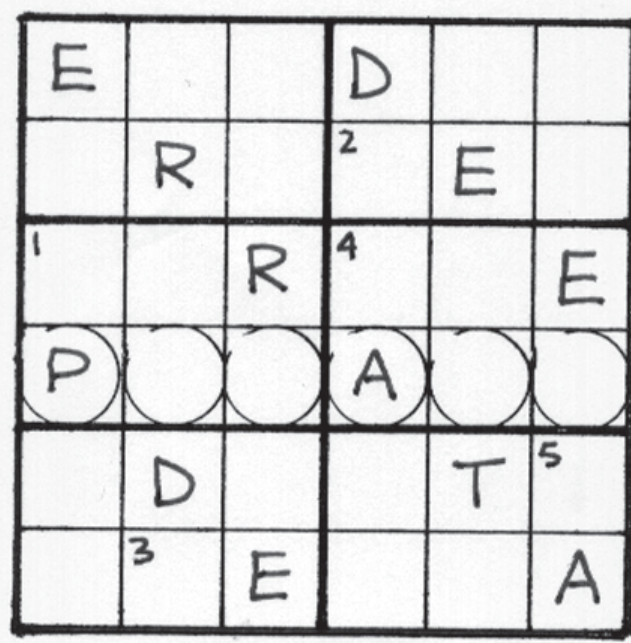
Loud firecracker or flatulence

Across

1. Small, sharp spear (4)
2. Domesticated creature (3)
3. Out of (3)

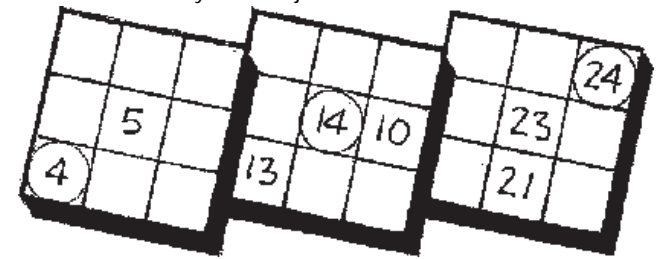
Down

4. Thank you (2)
5. Father nickname (2)



PseudoCube[©]

by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook



#BN2A Level of Difficulty – Moderate

THE SETUP:

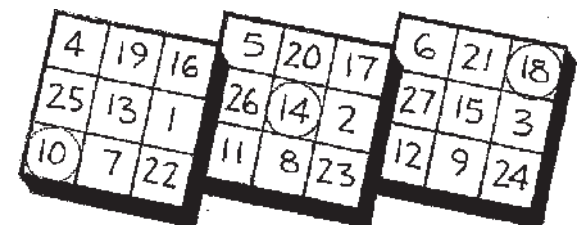
The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern: For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running through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

THE CHALLENGE:

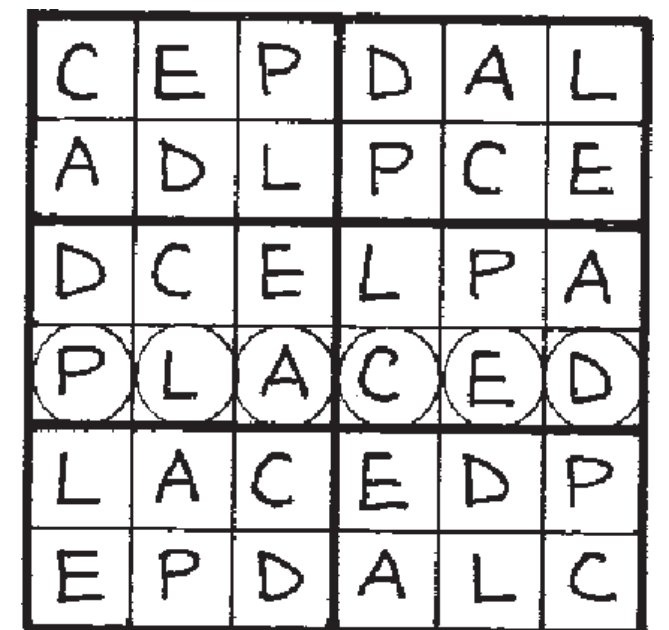
Start with the three center numbers for each layer and the other numbers given. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other numbers belong. Good Luck!

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com.

Solution to #AN2A in April 16 issue



Solution to April 16 Hex-a-Ku



... LETTERS continued from page 14

you can afford. If you are well off enough to buy a house, you pay for it, but if all you can afford is a stick of gum, you pay for it. Either way, you become a taxpayer, then so many of these complicated tax codes are done away with.

As for Obama, she just thought Reagan ran up a debt. Look at what this man has spent so far! Can you imagine what it is going to be in four years from now?

Johnny Owens
Highlands

Swanson's comments warrant clarification

Dear Editor,

This letter is in response to Don Swanson's column in the April 9 issue entitled "Bats in their Belfry."

The Land Trust for the Little Tennessee (LTLT) is a nonprofit organization based in Franklin, North Carolina. LTLT was one of

the principal partners in the conservation of the Needmore Tract located along the Little Tennessee River in northern Macon County. Mr. Swanson refers to the "elktoe mussel" found in the Little Tennessee River and states, "the Needmore property changed hands several times over these lit-

tle buggers, from the county to Nantahala Power (or Duke, I can't remember) and back again a couple of times. I don't know who owns it now, but I don't think it's open to the public."

The parcels making up the 4,400-acre Needmore Tract were purchased from local families during the late 1920s through the 1950s by Nantahala Power and Light and its predecessors with the intent of damming up the Little Tennessee River for hydroelectric generation. A dam was never built. When Duke Power purchased Nantahala Power and Light and all of its holdings, including the Needmore Tract, in 1999, it transferred the land to its development company, Crescent Resources. While the Tract was privately owned by Nantahala Power and Light, it was used by the public for agriculture, hunting, fishing, and other recreational uses.

With the threat of the property becoming a gated community, closed to the public, the Land Trust for the Little Tennessee

partnered with the community and the County Commissions of both Swain and Macon County to launch a five-year campaign to raise the funds to purchase the Tract from Duke. Ultimately, Duke received \$19 million for the property which was purchased by the State of North Carolina to be managed by the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC). The tract is now called Needmore Game Lands and is open to the public for hunting, fishing, hiking, picnicking, and other outdoor activities. Some of the property continues to be leased for agriculture, although the State did exclude livestock from the property due to liability issues, and the WRC prohibits camping in non-designated areas. However, it is working with the community based Mountain Neighbors for Needmore group to establish a managed campground on the Needmore Game Lands. The campground, located along the Little Tennessee River, may be operating as early as 2010.

Mr. Swanson is correct; the Little Tennessee River does provide habitat for the federally listed endangered mussel, the Appalachian elktoe, as well as the federally listed Little-wing Pearly mussel, and conservation of the Needmore Tract protects that important habitat. In addition, conservation of the Needmore Tract protects something equally significant; public access for traditional uses such as hunting, fishing and picnicking that residents of Macon County as well as her visitors have enjoyed for generations.

Sharon Fouts Taylor
Deputy Director/ LTLT

FreedomWorks sponsored TEA Party a success

Dear Editor,

Tax Day was a grand and glorious day in Macon County. The sun was beaming, warming the crowd of nearly a thousand citizens, concerned for the future of America. Gathered at noon at the Public Square, they heard patriotic music, beautifully sung and inspiring speeches that stirred their hearts and souls.


Coming from Murphy, Hayesville, Brasstown, Sky Valley, Bryson City, Sylva and many other places, the People registered their total rejection of what the Federal government is doing to the country. Speakers were constantly interrupted by cheers, right-ons and amens. Singers were joined by the crowd, demonstrating their love of their country. A good time was had by all.

The theme was too much spending, too much debt, higher taxes down the road, lack of fiscal responsibility, overwhelming porkulous, and our freedom being eroded by a greedy, power hungry government. The fight has just begun.

Thanks to the Macon chapter of FreedomWorks, the Town of Franklin, speakers and others who made this event a success.

Don Swanson, Director
Macon County FreedomWorks
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• BIZ NEWS •

CCP welcomes husband-wife team

Country Club Properties is pleased to announce the addition of Richard and Martha Betz as Real Estate Brokers at the Wright Square Office in Highlands.

Martha Betz comes with more than 30 years of customer-related service and experience. She was employed at Highlands Country Club for 20 years as Club Administrator,

and in that capacity managed the administrative and membership functions of the club. She left that position at the end of December 2008, to pursue a career in real estate. Prior to her employment with Highlands Country Club, she worked in the mortgage industry with Carolina Mountain Mortgage Group and in banking with Mountain Federal Savings and Loan (subsequently Brevard Federal).

A life-long member of the First Presbyterian Church, Betz has been active in fundraising for several causes, including the American Cancer Society. She also served for 20 years as tournament secretary for the Bob Jones Invitational Tournament, which has raised in excess of \$2 million dollars for benefit of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Highlands Historical Society, and volunteers at the Food Pantry. As a native of Highlands, the daughter of Alan and Jane Lewis, her roots go back seven generations.

Paradise joins Meadows Mountain

We are growing again! That is the word from Meadows Mountain Realty who announced today the association of Nadine Paradise.

Paradise attended Oakland University and started her professional career in Information Technology with a major insurance company. Later she enjoyed a practice with an Executive Recruiting firm that specialized in Fortune 500 companies. She was licensed as a Real Estate Broker in 2002; is licensed in the states of North Carolina, Georgia and Utah; and has consistently been a "Multi-Million Dollar Producer." She was awarded outside "Broker of the Year" at Trillium Links and Lake Club.

Nadine and the Team at Meadows Mountain Realty will be marketing Satulah Old Edwards Private Residences. The first of the Private Residences are slated for completion on June 1st. Nadine and other top producers from Meadows Mountain Realty will be on site daily to assist buyers.

"Satulah is a great addition to Highlands, where buyers can walk to all dining, shop-

ping and cultural venues in town plus have membership to all of the amenities of The Old Edwards Inn and Spa in addition to The Old Edwards Club. I am pleased to have the opportunity to work with The Meadows Team to represent this fine project," said Paradise.

Richard Delany of the Old Edwards Hospitality Group said Carol Oxford of Oxford Properties had recently resigned as broker for the project. "We really appreciate everything Carol has done for us in the past few years to get us to this point. She did a great job representing us," said Delany. "We are excited about our new relationship with Meadows Mountain Realty, they bring dynamic marketing and years of experience."

Nadine will have an office at Meadows Mountain Realty's office located at 450 N. 4th Street. "We are very excited to have Nadine joining our company," Judy Michaud, broker-owner of the company said, "Nadine has been recognized for her outstanding customer service, dedication and professionalism in the real estate industry. She is a natural fit for us."



Martha Betz, Tony Potts and Richard Betz



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