

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 7, Number 15

PDF Version – www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, April 9, 2009

This Week in Highlands

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 9

- Maundy Thursday services at the Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian and Episcopal churches.

Friday, April 10

- Easter Dramatic Musical "Believe" featuring the Apostle Thomas at the Community Bible Church. Good Friday at 6:30 pm followed by international coffees and dessert. 828-526-4685.

- At noon, the Community Walk of the Stations of the Cross begins at Our Lady of the Mountain and processing through town and ending at The First Baptist Church

- At 3 p.m. the Episcopal Church bell will ring to symbolize the time Christ died on the cross.

- Services at the Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian and Episcopal churches.

Saturday, April 11

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a short, but strenuous hike, 1.5 miles up Chimneytop Mountain in Sapphire for a great 360 degree view. Call leader Walker Taylor, 743-6977, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

- The Community Egg Hunt will be held Saturday at 11 a.m. at the Highlands Rec Park.

- HUMC Youth will be selling Chick-Fil-A bag lunches at the Community Easter Egg Hunt at the Rec Park Saturday. Chick-Fil-A sandwich, chips, brownie and drink for \$5. Funds will help with youth trip to Haiti this June.

Sunday, April 12




- The Macon County Convenience Centers will be closed on Sunday and re-open for business as usual on Monday, April 13.

- Easter Sunday Ecumenical Service at the Nature Center at 6:45 a.m.

Thursday, April 16

- Kindergarten Registration at Highlands School at 10 a.m. Call 526-2147.

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
61 / 40F	60 / 42F	59 / 39F

County outlines TDC & room tax plan

Area chambers/visitor centers room tax responsibilities have been clarified and the amount of room tax money the county will withhold for its administration fee has been set.

At a Tuesday meeting between members of the Franklin/Nantahala TDC, the Highlands TDC, County Manager Jack Horton, County Finance Director Evelyn Southard and County Attorney Lesley Mox-

ley, the course was laid and room tax responsibilities delineated between the county, the chambers and the visitor centers.

For county representatives, the outcome has always been clear – "The state says we can collect the tax and since we're responsible for how it is spent, we need to pay the bills," said Horton.

This came in response to Highlands TDC's proposal to let the

chambers of commerce pay the visitor center bills – as well as chamber bills that can be paid for with room tax money – and submit the invoices and copies of the checks for reconciliation with the county after the fact.

In its last meeting in Highlands, TDC representatives and Macon County Commissioner Brian McClellan said this would

• See ROOM TAX page 13

Survey indicates HS students like their school

Macon County Schools survey results, which were presented at the March 23 School Board meeting, included responses from students, parents, staff and the community associated with a particular school and involved rounds of questions in five categories.

The categories were: High student performance; Strong family, community and business support; Healthy students in safe, orderly and caring schools; Effective and efficient operations; and Quality teachers and staff.

Every question received a higher percentage of affirmative answers identified by Agree or Strongly Agree than negative answers indicated by Strongly Disagree or Disagree, but to every question there were a percentage of negative answers.

Highlands student survey participants answered 55 questions and indicated they are pleased with most aspects of their school with the highest negative responses – those above 10% for Disagree – in the "Strong family, community and business support category.

In that category the highest Disagree percentage was 30% to the question "I feel comfortable offering suggestions and sharing concerns with my school," but 41% agreed.

Easter is alive in Highlands!



Easter in Highlands is an ecumenical affair with the Stations of the Cross walk at noon beginning at the Catholic church and ending at the Baptist church; the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday at the Rec Park at 11 a.m. New this year, lunch will be served by the Highlands United Methodist Church youth who are raising funds for their mission trip to Haiti in June. Finally, there's the Easter morning Sunrise Service at the Highlands Nature Center at 6:45 a.m. Whatever your denomination there's a church for you in Highlands with services beginning Maundy Thursday, continuing Good Friday and culminating Easter Sunday.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

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County urges citizens to recycle

It saves money and makes money

By Joel Ostroff

Recycling Coordinator
MC Solid Waste Mgt. Dept.

For the past seven years, Macon County's Solid Waste Department has been a leader among the 100 counties in North Carolina – in the top 10% – for its recycling efforts. But with participation from citizens, Macon County can recycle an even greater percentage of the solid waste than it is currently doing.

It costs a lot of tax money to run the landfill. By the time the land, equipment, and personnel costs are added together, the actual cost of running the landfill is about \$1,000 for every cubic yard of compacted trash.

What many people don't understand, is all the recyclable material that is not placed into the recycle bins at the convenience centers goes into the landfill. This adds to the overall cost of running the landfill and added waste fills up the land fill faster.

All the items kept out of the landfill and properly recycled not only saves valuable landfill airspace, but the items collected for recycling are sold to recycling processors and made into new

• See RECYCLE page 11

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

Renewable energy could have big impact on North Carolina jobs, electricity rates

By Lance Brown

A renewable energy proposal in Washington, D.C., if passed into law, could have a major impact on jobs and electricity rates in North Carolina. The proposal creates a national Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) that would require all states to produce 20% of their electricity from renewable sources by 2021. Renewable energy generation would have to begin immediately.

A national standard for renewable energy might sound good on the surface, but when you look at our options for meeting the standard, you realize that states like North Carolina and my home state of Alabama really suffer compared to other places.

My organization, the Partnership for Affordable Clean Energy (PACE), estimates that the proposal could cost North Carolina electricity ratepayers as much as \$567 million per year, if not more. Under the current proposal, North Carolina power producers would have to generate about 19 million megawatt-hours from renewable sources like solar, wind, and biomass (organic materials such as wood).

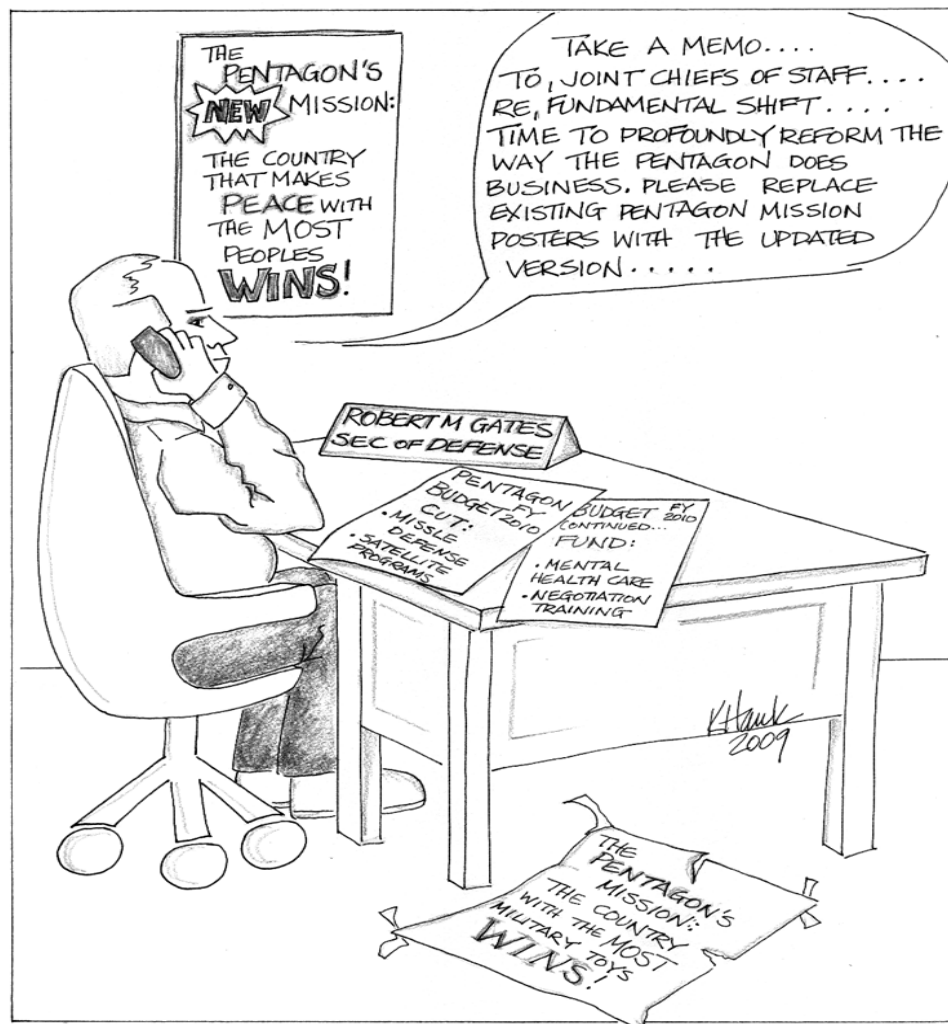
The current RPS proposal, sponsored by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), would not allow states to count power generated by existing hydroelectric plants toward the new standard. Hydroelectric power is one of the Southeast's most plentiful renewable sources of energy. In fact, North Carolina generated about 3 million megawatt-hours from hydroelectricity last year. That provision of Bingaman's proposal would cost North Carolina electricity ratepayers about \$77 million per year, and will cost the Southeast about \$700 million annually.

A report prepared in December 2006 for the NC Utilities Commission by La Capra Associates of Boston evaluated the potential for the state meeting an RPS. That report found that renewable resources existed in North Carolina to meet a 5% standard, but that a standard of 10% or higher would require using resources that are untapped or unproven, such as offshore wind.

In short, the Bingaman proposal requires North Carolina to produce 20% of its energy from renewable sources, but the state's official report isn't optimistic about anything greater than 5%. The bottom line is that fam-

• See FORUM page 23

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



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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• LETTERS •

T.E.A. Party set for April 15 in Franklin

Dear Editor,

How exciting it is that Macon County is having it's own T.E.A. Party - **Taxed Enough Already**, that is. The time is noon on Wednesday, April 15th, and the place is the Gazebo at Town Square. There will be speakers, good singing and help about what you can do about the huge spending programs that will overtax us and our future generations.

A carload of friends and I are bringing our lawn chairs and protest signs and are looking forward to a great time. Let's all turn out and show our disgust over what the government is doing to our great country and our financial future.

Fairy Mell
Franklin

An invitation to protest at T.E.A. Party in Sylva

Dear Editor,

Promises made by the Office of the President of the United States of America are not being met. Congressional Oversight Committees are engaging in illicit relationships with major business interests in the private sector. Our United States of America are suffering from division upon division. At this time of great potential there is the perilous possibility of change from capitalism to socialism.

Former President George Bush the forty third enabled Wall Street to steer our credit capital system in the wrong direction. Former President Bill Clinton encouraged subprime borrowers to invest in houses against centuries of standards developed by the mortgage lending market. Former President George Bush forty one initiated NAFTA and the manufacturing base of our economy disappeared. President Carter signed the Community Reinvestment Act and the hobo Americana subculture became subsidized by the middle class.

Congress is shaping a brave new experiment for our nation and the world with the first man to ever campaign for "Prince of the World" telling other nations how sorry he is for American influence in the world since before he was elected President. He signed into law, legislation that indebts the American Taxpayers to the rest

• See LETTERS page 14

• OBITUARIES •

Robert Leon Hamilt

Robert Leon Hamilt, 74, of Highlands died Monday, March 30, 2009 at his residence. He was born in Haverhill, MA, the son of the late Albert and Gladys Pononsky Hamilt. He grew up in the Haverhill and Boston area. He was a U.S. Airforce Veteran serving during the Korean Conflict. He worked for years as supervisor in the cutting department of Pandora Industries in Manchester, NH. He moved to Peachtree City, GA, in 1978. He had worked for a General Motors Dealership as an Internet Computer Manager in Griffin, GA for 26 years. He was loved by everyone he met with his great sense of humor and love of music. He was a Ham Radio operator (KD4UK) and rode a Honda motorcycle which he continued to ride until Dec. 2008. He retired to Highlands, NC in 2004.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Sandra Baty Hamilt; two sons, Gregory W. Hamilt of Suwannee, GA and Douglas M. Hamilt of Atlanta, GA; one grandson, Jonathan Hamilt and two granddaughters, Elizabeth and Melanie Hamilt; one sister, Judith Yaffi of Boston, MA; two nephews, Richard Yaffi and Warren Yaffi of Boston, MA; one niece, Laurie Yaffi of Boston, MA; one grandniece, Tara Yaffie of Boston, MA; two daughter-in-laws, Ona Hamilt and Amy Hamilt. He was preceded in death by one son, Keith Alan Hamilt.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, April 11 at 3 p.m. at Bryant-Grant Fu-

neral Home in Highlands with Chaplain Mary Wetzel officiating. Fran Keck will also say a few words. The family will receive friends from 2-3 p.m., one hour prior to service at Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Highlands.

Please no flowers, memorials may be

Velzie Viola Rogers

Velzie Viola Rogers, age 91, of Satolah, GA, died Thursday, April 2, 2009 at the Fidelia Eckerd Center. She was a native of Rabun County, GA, the daughter of the late Joe Robert Hicks and Samantha Ridley Hicks. She was married to the late Glen L. Rogers, who passed away in 1977. She had attended Rabun Gap College and was a retired postmaster. She was a Baptist by faith.

She is survived by two sons, Denver Rogers of Rock Hill, SC and Dennis Hawkins of San Diego, CA; two sisters, Alvena Bowers of Clayton, GA and Vela Mae Potts of Highlands, NC; five grandchildren also survive.

Funeral services were held Saturday, April 4, 2009 at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Highlands, with Rev. Oliver Rice officiating. Burial will be in the Macedonia Baptist Church Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Dennis Ivester, Steve Wilson, Steven Wilson, Terry Potts, Gary McCall, and Tommy Rogers.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge

made to the Highlands Emergency Council in Bob's memory, 532 Main Street, Highlands, NC 28741.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



of arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

• MILESTONE •

Highlands School senior, Casey Jenkins, competed in the USAG Junior Olympic Level 10 State Championships March 29th in Winston-Salem. Jenkins placed fifth on floor and sixth on balance beam, and qualified for regional competition at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN in mid-April.



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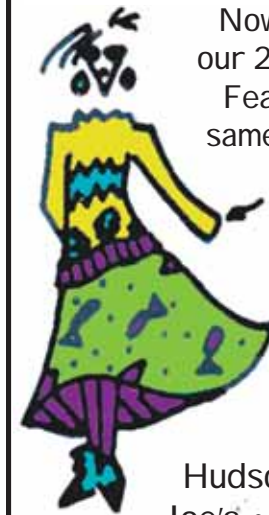
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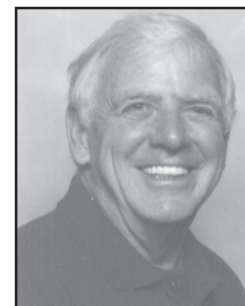


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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Li'l Ernie



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
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askfredanything@aol.com

My Easter story is about a first-grader named Ernie Zernheld who attended Saint Patrick's School in Philadelphia. Ernie was small for his age and wasn't the sharpest tool in the shed. Also, Ernie's classmates made fun of his buck teeth.

It was Easter week and Father Tom, Saint Pat's pastor, loved to make the rounds at the school and speak to the children. It was also a special time for the children because they could close their books, fold their hands and pretend to listen.

Father Tom walked into Ernie's first-grade classroom unexpected and, without prompt, the children rose simultaneously and said in a slow, sing-song voice, "Good morning, Father Tom." They remained standing until their teacher, a Dominican nun, gave them one click with her clicker, hidden deep in her garments. In unison, the children sat.

Father Tom dragged a tall stool from the corner of the classroom and sat. Several children giggled as this stool was mostly used for punishment and always remained in the corner.

After a moment of silence, Father spoke. "Good morning, children. Does anyone know what special time of the year this is?"

Every hand shot up except Ernie's. He knew the answer but decided not to participate. Father Tom pointed to Sarah for the answer. "It's Easter time and today is the last day of school," Sarah announced.

"That's right," Father Tom said. "Now, I want all of you to think hard and tell me what Easter means to you."

Without hesitation, Carol Meeks' hand shot up. She was an A student and no one was surprised she had the answer. Father chose her to go first.

Carol collected her thoughts. "Easter means it's a time when my mom and I go shopping for a new Easter dress that I get to pick out all by myself. I also get new shoes and a new purse. Then, on Easter Sunday, we go to church and I get to show off my new outfit to all my friends."

Father Tom looked down in disappointment. "Well, that's not exactly what I had in mind. Can anyone else tell me what Easter means to them?"

Bobby Malone raised his hand and stood to speak. "Easter is special to me because the Easter Bunny comes to our house and hides candy and Easter eggs everywhere. Sometimes I get toys."

Again, Father Tom looked at sister with disappointment. "Does anyone else have anything to say about what Easter means to them?"

There, in the last row, sat Ernie. His hand was raised only slightly and he had slid down in his chair in hopes Father wouldn't see him. Father pointed, "Ernie, what does Easter mean to you?"

Ernie rose slowly from his chair while several girls giggled. Speaking softly, Ernie said, "Easter is a time

when we celebrate the risen Christ."

Father was shocked. "Yes, Ernie, tell us more about that."

Ernie continued. "They killed Jesus by hanging him on a tree... I mean a cross. When he was dead, they took him down and put him in a cave and pushed a big stone over it so no one could get in."

Father Tom was elated with Ernie's answers. "Good, Ernie. Go on and tell us what happened next."

Ernie put his hands in his pockets and shuffled his feet before answering. "In three days, Jesus came alive and pushed the stone away from the entrance to the cave. He was standing there looking out."

Overwhelmed with joy, Father Tom encouraged li'l Ernie to continue. "Go ahead, Ernie tell us what happened next."

Ernie hesitated for a moment and said, "Ah...if Jesus sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter."

I love that Easter story because I'm a little like Ernie in that I don't always get the details right but I usually have a grasp on the main idea.

If Ernie is anything like me, he's grown to manhood and remains as astounded as I am over the events that led to Jesus' death and resurrection. At a time when Messiahs and rumors of Messiahs abounded, a child was born who would grow to manhood and proclaim to be the son of God.

This humble Jewish man named Jesus never traveled more than 40 miles his whole lifetime and his ministry only lasted three years. Yet, with no means of communication other than word of mouth, the story of his teachings, his death and resurrection has lived for over 2,000 years. For me, that's part of the miracle of Easter.

And like Ernie, I may not have all the details about Jesus correct, but I guarantee you I got the main idea right.

Happy Easter, everyone!

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Living in an online world

Dating opportunities flood my in-box. Web sites for black singles, senior singles, Latino singles, Asian singles, and just plain single singles offer me bliss. I wonder if I'm somehow responsible for the onslaught. Did I sneak a peek at a steamy site, only to have my e-mail address sold to all comers?

I have no interest in dating and Lizzie certainly has no interest in my dating. I bet the dating sites offer everything from eternal love to one night stands. I know a guy who finds his dates online. I thought he was a little peculiar before I learned he dated online. Now I don't like to be in the same room with him. I can't believe he gets many dates with untouched photos or unvarnished truth. But who knows? There must be people out there who've searched their entire lives for weirdos; black weirdos, senior weirdos, Latino weirdos, Asian weirdos, and just plain weirdos. I don't think many people are looking for weirdos. They're after Prince or Princess Charming, believe he or she has somehow gone undiscovered and unclaimed, and is waiting patiently to meet someone who loves long walks on the beach, quiet evenings in front of the fireplace, and leisurely reading the New York Times on Sunday morning. I don't think my friend is interested in any of these activities. His taste runs more to a six-pack of beer and a motorcycle ride as fore play.

I wonder how a person feels when he or she discovers that Charming has more than his or her share of warts and her online photos needed air brushing twenty years ago. The typical online dater, accustomed to unpleasant surprises, just shrugs and thinks, "There's still the Sunday Times." There must be a good many busy, computer savvy, young professionals looking for agreeable dates in cyber-land. There are also desperately lonely people who wouldn't stand a chance at a church social or local bar. There are predators, some merely with voracious sexual appetites, while others are far more sinister. I haven't heard of a cyber serial killer, but I'll bet I do.

There are people, probably including my friend, who have had dozens or even hundreds of physical contacts originating from online dating services. Do I hear "thousands?" If they aren't too particular, they can equal, in sheer numbers, at least, the success of an NBA basketball player. Proponents claim that online dating gives the parties a chance to get to know each other before meeting. At a bar, a more traditional meeting site, one knows only physi-



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

cal appearance and preference in intoxicating beverage. And one can't be too confident about appearance unless the bar is better lit than most I have frequented. The argument makes the questionable assumption that online daters tell the truth while cyber-trolling. I doubt if, cloaked in invisibility, and hoping to find someone at least as desirable as oneself, a person might stretch the truth just a little. It's like assuming E-Bay is one big happy family and no one

misrepresents his merchandise. I don't believe that either. As the salesman said, "You can't close the deal if you can't get your foot in the door."

I don't know anything about the dating scene in Highlands, but ours is a tiny community, and I suspect after exhausting the opportunities at Buck's and Sunday school, one might be tempted to expand the net by casting about online. Just be aware that there isn't much of a beach in Seneca, most mobile homes don't come equipped with fireplaces, and sales of the Sunday Times aren't particularly brisk in Franklin. If one is tempted to go farther a field, and travel by air to meet Charming, the only advice that I can offer is that it's probably a good idea to buy a ticket that doesn't carry a penalty to return home on the next available flight.

Several times a week, I receive e-mails that inform me that I am the recipient of \$1,000 gift card from Walmart or a new Dell computer. Maybe if somebody charged for e-mails, I would be spared the temptation to claim my free computer or find the Asian woman of my dreams.

... SWANSON continued from 7

friendly alternative to conventional power plants. Wind proponents already have had to battle complaints about bird deaths from the blades and about unsightly turbines marring pristine views.

Will the cries of bat lovers stifle yet another attempt to satisfy them? It seems the aim of radical environmentalists is becoming clear. Their desire to protect bats (and other creatures) trumps the wants and needs of mankind.

Nothing will satisfy them until animals roam free and man is fenced in to walk the paths from here to there. Skeptics will laugh and say this scenario is ridiculous. Not so. The UN has had this scheme on the drawing board for years, and the picture gets clearer every day.

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• HIS & HERS •

Bad Bunny

By Michelle Mead-Armor

I stopped in to see my editor the other day. I like my editor. She's a nice lady – smart, pretty, and with a great sense of humor. I make her laugh, which is all I aim to do with this column, really. I told her I'd be in Waynesboro visiting with Maman, but assured her that my column would be in at the usual time. "It'll be in the Easter paper," she reminded me, "Just in case you have something that would be particularly appropriate for the occasion." My heart sank. When you come from a family of agnostics, you don't really have that many warm, fuzzy memories of Easter.

Growing up, Easter was another one of those holidays that passed us by. Oh, we celebrated the food part of it, either with a lovely ham or a succulent leg of lamb. The part I missed was the "going to church" part – mostly, I'll admit, because of the clothes. How I envied Lucy Jane, and her yearly new Easter outfits! The patent leather shoes, the cute white socks, the frilly pastel dress, the Easter bonnet. How well I re-

member the Easter we had a late snow, and the glee I felt as Lucy Jane's Easter finery was covered up by galoshes and a thick, warm overcoat.

When Eric and I were very young, we got Easter baskets. The brightly colored baskets were stuffed with artificial grass, and featured a large chocolate bunny, surrounded by his court of marshmallow chickens and jellybeans. This was rather wasted on me, since I liked neither marshmallow nor jellybeans. Fortunately, my father loved both, and fell upon my Easter basket like misery on the world. Still, I hated biting into that chocolate bunny! One minute he would be perched, cute and innocent, in the middle of my Easter basket, and the next, I was chomping off his ear. And what a disappointment to see that he was hollow! To this day, I think of really good people as "solid chocolate bunnies," meaning that they are consistently decent, through and through.

It seems that the old Easter staple, dyed Easter eggs have gone by the wayside. Every year, we would go into production, taking hard-boiled eggs, and then dipping them into various dishes of colorful Paas dye. Perhaps vinegar was involved, at least, that's the smell I remember. Political correctness has taken over, and now the eggs that are hidden are brightly colored plastic ones, filled with candy. There was more danger with ours, since the eggs could crack, or, if not found, smell to high heaven. There again, the old Easter eggs were a no-no for me, since I'm allergic to egg whites.

I never understood the business about bunnies and eggs. Even as a little girl, I knew that bunnies made little bunnies, and that eggs came from chickens. The Easter bunny bringing eggs made no sense to me. I thought that folks were really stupid not to know that the Easter bunny couldn't have made those eggs himself, especially since he wasn't a lady rabbit, or as a French friend of mine used to say, "a rabbit woman."

Being half-French, I grew up with a fairly practical view of rabbits. We ate rabbits. My Aunt Francine's "lapin aux trois moutardes" was legendary. Years ago, I attended a party with Maman. The hostess was proud to show off an enormous platter of raw veggies. Hostesses forgive me, but I loathe and abhor raw veggies, as does Maman. As a general rule, we like our vegetables peeled, lightly cooked, and tossed in butter, with a little salt. "See," cooed the hostess, "I made a French dish! It's called



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

"crew-dytes" (her pronunciation of "crudités"). Maman gazed at the platter in dismay. "In my country, we serve this to rabbits," she stated apologetically, adding, "And then we eat the rabbits."

More recently, I had a run in with rabbits in New York. I was working as an office temp at Standard & Poors (the story of my life – to quote my friend, Betty, it was standard and I was poor). Office temps are often the bottom of the barrel. No one expects you to be smart or conscientious if you're a temp, and folks don't want to get close to you, since they know you'll be moving on. Lunch hours were particularly lonely.

One day, I took myself off to South Street Seaport for lunch. There was a deliciously tacky shop in the mall that sold things for a mostly teenage market – hair clips, headbands, bangles and bracelets. It was shortly after Easter, and all of the Easter-themed accessories were on sale. Just for fun, I tried on some headbands with flowers and bunnies. One headband, in particular, was over the top. It was pink, and had a rather large bunny on one side. I was admiring myself in the mirror when a surly young salesgirl came up behind me. In a nasal Brooklyn twang, she remarked that a more modest headband would be appropriate for a woman of my mature years. That was all I needed to hear. I snapped up that headband, and marched to the checkout counter in anger and righteous indignation.

Since then, that Easter headband gets taken out every year. It made my former bank colleagues chuckle in New York. It reduces John to peals of laughter in Highlands. The first time I wore it for him, I did a slinky walk down the stairs, sort of my version of Mae West. "I'm a bad bunny," I said in a husky voice, hand on one hip. His stunned silence and open mouth was worth all the effort. You don't get to silence John very often.

Of course, I'll be singing in church this Easter, and dressed in my usual choir robe. It's bright red, and the tacky pink Easter Bunny headband wouldn't really go with it. It's a pity, though. The collection plate just might reflect a backhanded admiration for such an offbeat showing of holiday cheer. Oh, well. I'll save it for coffee hour.

• About the author: Michelle likes bunnies of all shapes and sizes, except for the Playboy ones.

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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

Bats in their belfry...

Has everyone had enough of seemingly unsolvable problems confronting us lately?

Wars going on in places that clans and tribes and armed gangs govern and the natives, who have never known anything better, support the thugs in their perpetuating the status quo. Makes for tough sledding.

Worldwide economic collapse. Government spending through the roof. Deficits mounting. Debt piling up. Inevitable runaway inflation on the horizon. Hmmm, num-num, can't wait for that.

We are facing a complete abandonment of morality, ethics and statesmanship in government at all levels. I don't need to reiterate the sordid record of Obama's appointees nor the low-level antics of the libs lineup of slimeballs, Dodd, "Chucky" Schumer, Tiny Tim and the rest (I could go on forever). It is very bad.

But all these pale in comparison to the tragedy going on in the NE US. But first, I have a confession. Those of you who have been around for a while will remember the big whoop-de-do over the elktoe mussel found in the Little Tennessee River.

I really never understood the commotion that it caused; the Needmore property changed hands several times over these little 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. My confession is, through all the hazari over the elktoe thing, I didn't care if it lived or died. I'm sure that ruffled somebody's feathers, but I just didn't care.

And now, I read with great interest that bats are threatened on two fronts. First, in certain areas of lower New England, a nasty plague dubbed "White Nose Syndrome" is "decimating bat populations at various hibernacula across the Northeast and spreading south." Now to you and me, this is an academic issue, but to cavers or spelunkers or people to wander around in under-



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

ground caverns, this is not good.

I guess this is true confessions time because I feel the need confess my fear of two things; the thought of being on a submarine terrifies me, although I did do quite well on the one at Disney World. And the other is being deep in a cave. So, I don't have much empathy for cavers; more than the bats, but not much. Anyway, the Fish & Wildlife people think that us bad Americans,

who are responsible for all evil on this Earth, may, I repeat may, be responsible for spreading this disease from one cave to another by our mere presence.

So F&W wants cavers to stay away from caves where infected bats hang out (hang out, get it?). Oh well, it's not important. Not only that, they want cavers to stay away, way away, like don't go into a cave in the same state where there is a cave with sick bats. I thought that was carrying things too far until I learned they don't even want cavers to go into caves in states adjacent to a state where there are cases of White Nose Syndrome present. That's when I get off the bus.

So I'm asking myself, "Do their noses really turn white?" We never find out. The article from which I extracted this valuable information also informs the reader that "We face this unknown threat to bats, which play an important role in our world." Really!! I didn't see that coming. Hastily Googling in "bats" looking to prove their worthlessness, I found that Wikipedia says "Bats perform a vital ecological role by pollinating flowers, and also serve an important role in seed dispersal." Well, who knew?

If this White Nose thing isn't bad enough, these charming creatures are being threatened all over the world. By what you ask? Wind turbines would be the answer. The bat deaths, which have baffled researchers, pose a problem for an industry that sells itself as an environmentally

• See SWANSON page 5

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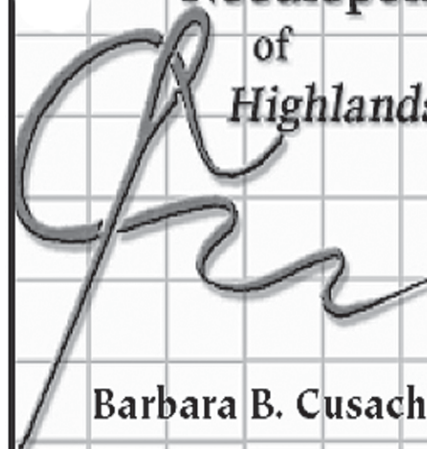
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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

Landfill use can predict recessions

One day while throwing away my toothbrush I started thinking about the impact of toothbrushes on the environment. Think about it: If everyone followed their dentist's advice (I know it's a stretch but just play along) and swapped out their toothbrush every three months, that means every month 100 million toothbrushes would be thrown away in this country. Three million each and every day! Obviously a single toothbrush doesn't take up much landfill volume, but imagine the volume taken up by three million.

Why doesn't somebody invent a toothbrush with a replaceable head? Every time you needed to change the bristles, all you would have to do would be to snap out the old head and pop in a new one, which would greatly diminish the volume of waste. The problem, of course: that new head would be singly packaged in a large plastic casing.

I went on a business trip this winter and stayed in a condo. After being used to hauling my trash to the convenience center here in Highlands, twice-weekly curbside trash pick-up seemed ridiculously excessive. No wonder Americans throw away so much — all you have to do is drag the trash can to the curb and someone else hauls it away. In fact, Americans throw away 254 million tons of trash and unwanted stuff every year.

Interestingly, an article in the Washington Post last month ("A Trashed Economy Foretold").

March 14) said that landfills could be predictors of recessions. Landfill managers in the Washington area told reporters they had noticed the volume of trash had begun to drop a year ago and levels have now dropped as much as 30 percent from their peak a couple of years ago.

A major factor in the decline is people aren't buying as much; there's less packaging being thrown away — all the styrofoam and bubble wrap and plastic casings make up approximately one-third of all landfill trash.

I found the answer to my question about toothbrush-trash volume in the Post article: some environmental groups calculate that Americans throw away 25,000 tons of toothbrushes every year. In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency says 2 million tons of tech trash winds up in landfills each year, as do 100 million cellphones. If you'd like a shock, visit our Macon County landfill and go to the shed where consumers drop trash, which is then transported to the landfill by county workers. One corner is filled with the biggest pile of computer monitors you've ever imagined, and the pile of televisions on the other side of the shed is a trip down mem-



Katie Brugger
k-brugger@hotmail.com

ory lane — you'll find TVs of every era.

But in recessions people hold on to products longer, whether it's a laptop, refrigerator, or automobile, and have repairs done instead of buying a replacement the moment something breaks.

Louis Johnston, an economist at the College of St. Benedict in Collegeville, Minn., searched Commerce Department data and found

that during recessions, people tend to spend 5% of their household budgets on repairs. In good times, repair spending falls — in recent years to below 1%. So another significant factor in the decline in landfill use is that people are less willing to throw things away — they'll sew a new button on a sweater or put a new hard drive in the computer instead of buying a new one.

I've seen a lot of articles lately where people are hoping that perhaps this recession will show Americans the error of our ways and we will never go back to being the extravagantly wasteful nation we have recently been.

Thomas Friedman wrote a column last month in that spirit ("The Inflection is Near?" March 8). Friedman asked: "What if the crisis of 2008 represents something much more fundamental than a deep recession? What if it's telling us that the whole growth model we created over the last 50 years is simply unsustainable economically and ecologically and that 2008 was when we hit the wall — when Mother Nature and the market both said: 'No more.'"

He continued, "We have created a system for growth that depended on our building more and more stores to sell more and more stuff made in more and more factories in China, powered by more and more coal that would cause more and more climate change but earn China more and more dollars to buy more and more U.S. T-bills so America would have more and more money to build more and more stores and sell more and more stuff that would employ more and more Chinese ... We can't do this anymore."

Our economy was built on plundering the natural world in a completely unsustainable way. We've overfished the oceans, overfarmed the land, poisoned the water and air, drained the supply of oil, cut down the forests and grown rich and fat in the process. But we've been living off the planet's capital, not the interest. We haven't developed an economy that works in a sustainable fashion.

Friedman says this is the exact same rapacious, greedy behavior that brought down

• See BRUGGER page 13

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Remembering Easter: What have we learned?

Rev. Brian Sullivan
Episcopal Church
of the Incarnation



Easter is a time to remember how to be Christ-like. It is a time to learn how to "be in the world not of the world." This week, Christians all over the world will be learning by remembering what happened to Jesus more than 2,000 years ago. Our remembering, however, is different than that of a historian.

The last five days of Jesus' life are relived this Holy Week by going to a supper with him and the lepers and watching him be anointed. We experience Jesus as a servant who washes feet. We secretly enter the upper room for a Passover Meal with the disciples. We go to the garden at night to keep vigil as Jesus fearfully prays among the olive trees. We shockingly watch his arrest. We are rendered speechless as he is beaten and spit upon. We follow him through the streets of Jerusalem with the agony of a cross on his shoulders. We painstakingly watch him take his last breath on the cross. We even hopelessly go to the grave with him. And finally, we celebrate a miracle, "He has risen!" To understand all these events, we do not take pleasure in the violence, or grovel in the shame, but we learn by remembering. We remember as if the past is the present, as if nothing has changed in 2,000 years.

So if everything is the same, what have we learned from 2,000 years of experience? Well, there is still one more overlooked character to help answer that question. She is the anonymous character whom Jesus claims should be remembered whenever the Good News is proclaimed. Her story goes like this.

On the Wednesday of Holy Week, right in the middle of dinner with the lepers, she takes an expensive alabaster jar filled with exotic spices and foolishly breaks it open on Jesus. She lacks all concern of cost, which is most likely a year's salary. The disciples are concerned that it could be spent on the poor. The Pharisees are concerned because her actions announce the Messiah which will change tradition and disrupt the peace. The crowd has no idea what is going on. And Judas Iscariot is concerned for his own gain. Can you see the modern day parallels between the liberals, conservatives, fence-sitters, and even Bernie Mad-off? So what has changed?

To follow her example is to begin integrating this question with the learning experience of remembering Easter. She actually believed Jesus when he said that he was the Messiah and must die. Her outlandish act was preparation for Jesus' death, something the world cannot understand. And if the world cannot understand it, they institutionalize it and give it a label. It is a harsh reality, unless you understand that the institution is called the Church and the label given to those who believe with out seeing is called a Christian.

Woven into Holy Week, we learn that Christians are called to be anonymous, outlandish, radical, foolish, rebellious, but most importantly, people of action. Those who choose to act like this will find their own instrument of

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

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Office - 526-2320

Sunday: Holy Communion - 11 a.m.

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

Monday: Evening Bible Study at 6 p.m.

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

at First Baptist Church

Pot Luck Lunch last Sunday of each month.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Everett Brewer

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

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

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The Rev. Brian Sullivan - Rector: 526-2968

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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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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.

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Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175

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Tuesdays: 10 a.m. - Seekers

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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

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526-3376

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studies; 6:15 - Adult choir

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. - 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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• COOKING ON THE PLATEAU •

Update Your Easter Ham

With Easter right around the corner, families are looking for affordable choices for their holiday meal. According to a survey conducted by the National Pork Board, about 70 percent of Americans serve ham for their holiday dinner. This treasured holiday centerpiece is an affordable choice for the Easter table that won't break the bank.

While ham is traditional and affordable, it's also versatile. It's simple to contemporize classic ham, adding a little zing with on-trend recipes filled with spicy, fruity ingredients.

"While ham is delicious on its own, you can easily pair it with so many flavors," says Pamela Johnson, director of consumer communications for the National Pork Board. "The tang or sweetness of glazes, sauces and chutneys is a sure-fire way to

bring flair to your holiday feast."

According to Mintel's trend research, "exotic" flavors and fruits are making a big impact in 2009. This Easter, try a delicious **Baked Ham with Sweet 'n' Sour Plum Sauce**. This savory dish blends the Asian spices with sweet honey and brown sugar. A glaze made with flavorful ingredients such as purple plums results in an incredibly appetizing slice-of-ham heaven.

When the feast is over, this recipe will leave you with plenty of leftover ham, perfect for including in the next day's breakfast, lunch or dinner – yet another reason this recipe is guaranteed to make your Easter meal a success! Visit TheOtherWhiteMeat.com for more than 100 additional ham recipes, videos and free downloadable brochures.

Baked Ham with Sweet 'n' Sour Plum Sauce Recipe

6 pound fully-cooked boneless ham
1 15-ounce can purple plums packed in heavy syrup, drained, pitted and pureed
1 cup undrained crushed pineapple packed in pineapple juice
1/4 cup sliced green onions
1/4 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
2 tablespoons seasoned rice wine vinegar
2 tablespoons honey
1 tablespoon cornstarch
1 teaspoon grated fresh ginger
1 large clove garlic, minced (1/2 teaspoon)
1/8 teaspoon Chinese five-spice powder

shallow roasting pan. Bake in preheated oven at 325 degrees F. for 1 hour, 30 minutes to 1 hour, 45 minutes or until meat thermometer registers 140 degrees F.

Meanwhile combine remaining ingredients in medium saucepan. Bring to boil; reduce heat. Cook and stir for 2 minutes longer. Remove from heat.

Brush ham with sauce every 15 minutes during last 30 minutes of baking.

Remove to serving platter and tent with foil. Let stand 15 minutes. Brush with sauce. Carve and serve with remaining sauce.

If desired, garnish with green onion flowers, wedges of fresh plums and unpeeled pineapple.

Makes about 24 servings

Give your ham an Asian twist. Serve with peas, cucumbers or your family's favorite side dishes.



• Courtesy of Family Features

• FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

Town's 'consent agenda' is open to the public

There has been some misunderstanding concerning a procedural change the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Highlands has made in our meetings in the last couple of months. That change is the use of a consent agenda, sometimes referred to an omnibus agenda.

First, there are no items in the consent agenda on which the board must take action. The items are purely routine reports of staff, departments and committees which are printed in the agenda packet and have been distributed to the board members, the press and any citizen who wants them several days before the meeting. These reports are open for review by any citizen. Second, anything on this list of consent items can be removed by anyone on the board for discussion at any time.

Finally, all of these reports have been reviewed by all members of the board and the press prior to the meeting. They are for information only and are available to anyone who wants them. This certainly does not violate the open meetings law of the state of North Carolina. This Board is very careful in keeping the public fully informed. We all are fully aware what we can and cannot discuss in a closed meeting.

The Macon County Economic Development Committee is a joint cooperative effort of the county and towns to attract businesses to our county. The County Board of Commissioners approved the hiring of an economic development director at a cost of \$40,000 and asked the towns of Franklin and Highlands to contribute one third of this cost. The Highlands Board of Commissioners ap-



Mayor Don Mullen

proved \$7,000 for this with Commissioner Hank Ross being our representative in this process. This is a much needed activity in our county, and we have elected to support it as has the Chamber of Commerce headed by Bob Kieltyka.

At this past town board meeting we also approved a 10% hike in our electricity rates effective in May. In my last report to you this past week and in the papers on Thursday this was explained in detail. It was necessary because our provider, Duke Power Company, will be raising the rates on the town for the first time in 14 years in March of 2010 by 16% a year for the three years. Since this was not negotiable with Duke and after legal and expert consultation, we had no choice but to raise the rates on our customers in Highlands. In order to lessen the blow of this large increase we have created a rate stabilization fund which also has been explained in detail in one of the papers by Town Manager Jim Fatland.

The administrative fees for the handling of the Occupancy Tax, that is hotel and motel

room taxes, in Macon County, still has not been settled to the satisfaction of the Highlands Tourism and Development Commission.

Currently, the county retains 15% for administrative purposes and County Manager Jack Horton is looking now at the true cost. This is an ongoing process which I am sure will be worked out soon by the county and the towns and will more than likely deal with how the money is collected and distributed to the Chamber of Commerce. This money is used for the operation of the Visitor's Center and Chamber of Commerce and promotion of tourism in the local municipalities.



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... RECYCLE continued from page 1

commodities. Last year the income to Macon County from the sales of the recyclables was approximately \$140,000. That income helps pay for Solid Waste Department's expenses which means its operation costs less to the taxpayer.

The fact is recycling is a win-win situation. Recycling saves tax dollars used to buy and operate landfill space, while creating dollars to pay for Solid Waste Department operations. Because recycling is voluntary in Macon County it is important for all citizens to recycle as many of the appropriate items as possible. (See page 11 of this paper.)

Free tours of the Macon County Recycling Facility and Landfill will be offered on Tuesdays, April 14 and 21, at 11a.m., weather permitting. It is located at 1448 Lakeside Drive in Franklin. The Solid Waste Department invites the citizens of Macon County to learn what happens to the solid waste so they can understand why everyone should recycle everything that is recyclable! Tours are limited to 25 participants. Call 349-2252 for reservations.

There is to be a "County-Wide Litter Pick-

up" on April 25 which will not only produce a cleaner, more attractive Macon County, but will also get more citizens involved in recycling while removing litter from the county's landscape.

Highlands

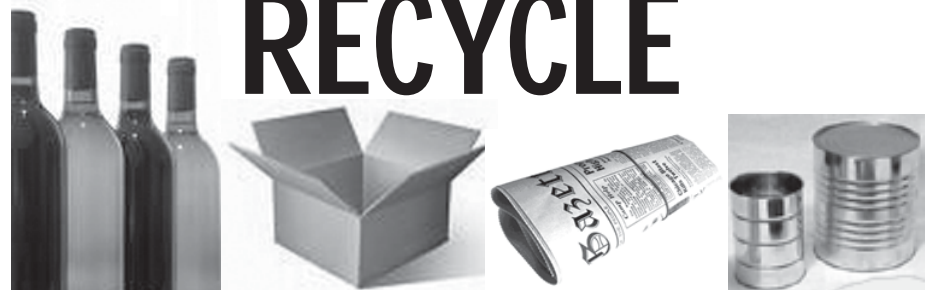
The Highlands Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring its annual Gorge Road Litter Pickup on Saturday, April 25. Call 526-2112 for more information.

The Town of Highlands is having its Annual Spring Cleanup on May 26. Town sanitation crews will pickup white goods – appliances and other items – left curbside by residents. Simply call the town office at 526-2118 to schedule a pickup. The town's annual Spring Cleanup began in February 1987 in conjunction with F.A.C.E (For A Cleaner Environment).

As part of the consent agenda at the April 1 Highlands Town Board meeting, the board agreed to serve notice to residents and commercial entities which discard trash either in unsuitable containers or discard trash which the town crews don't pickup.

For the complete list, call 526-2118.

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Holy Week Services at Highlands United Methodist Church

315 Main Street / 828-526-3376
Pastor Paul Christy

Thursday, April 9 – Maundy Thursday

Please join us at 7 p.m. for our Maundy Thursday service. We will share together in Holy Communion.

Friday, April 10 - Good Friday

Please join us at 7 p.m. for our Good Friday service.

Sunday, April 12 - Easter Sunday

6:45 a.m. - Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service
Join us and other churches at the amphitheatre behind the Biological Research Center at 6:45 a.m. for our Sunrise Service.

8:30 and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Services / The Living Cross
Join us as we celebrate at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Bring a flower from your yard or something purchased to place on the cross before each service.

9:45 a.m. - Covered Dish Breakfast
Bring an egg casserole, quiche, fruit salad, or coffee cake/danish/muffins to share as we have breakfast together.

10 a.m. - Children's Easter Egg Hunt and Storytime
The children will be off to hunt eggs at 10 a.m., immediately after breakfast.

... ROOM TAX continued from page 1

“save” the county time, thereby decreasing the amount of room tax withheld by the county for administration fees.

Since 1986 when the county first began levying a 3% room tax at all lodging facilities, the amount the county has withheld for administering the tax back to the respective chambers of commerce/visitor centers has fluctuated from 3% to 15% to 5% and back to 15%. Obviously, the less the county keeps for administration fees, the more disbursed to the chambers/visitor centers.

Under the Highlands TDC proposal, if something was wrongfully paid with room tax money, then the county could withhold that amount from the room tax allocation the next month. (Only items or services directly related to promoting travel and tourism can be paid with room tax proceeds.)

But at Tuesday's meeting, Finance Director Southard said she would rather pre-audit all allocations rather than spend time reconciling after the fact which would take up a lot more time.

Tim McKinney, the consultant hired to determine the county's indirect and direct costs to collect the room tax, track and collect from delinquent payers and redistribute it back to the chambers, said it cost the county \$46,655.67 to administer the room tax.

That figure represents a little less than 10% of the total room tax collected county-wide in 2007-08 – the only year used in the research — which was \$475,000.

Southard said that thanks to new soft-

ware that can track the entire database, handle delinquencies and generate invoices – something that had to be done manually with Excel – the time it takes to handle those duties will decrease, which will offset the added time and cost it will take her department to pre-audit, write checks and mail.

“It will basically be a wash so our administration fee shouldn't increase,” she said. Horton said instead of charging a percentage for administration fees as in years past, from now on the county will charge the set fee, likely the \$46,000 a year.

Furthermore, the chambers and the TDCs learned that their relationship will be clarified in amended by-laws.

All these months, the chambers of commerce thought the newly formed TDCs were advisory boards to the county but that the chambers dictated to the TDCs how the room tax money could and would be spent.

Tuesday the group learned that the county feels differently.

“It was my understanding that the TDCs make the decisions, rather than the chambers making the decisions and having the TDCs approve” said Horton.

“That's where we have a difference of opinion,” said Highlands TDC chairman Gary Drake.

Horton said as advisory boards, the TDCs answer to the county, not to the chambers. The chambers comes into it because of shared services between the visitor centers and the

•See ROOM TAX page 14



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A Service Of Highlands - Cashiers Hospital

... BRUGGER continued
from page 8


the financial system, just on a larger scale. He quotes Glen Prickett, senior vice president at Conservation International, "Just as a few lonely economists warned us we were living beyond our financial means and over-drawing our financial assets, scientists are warning us that we're living beyond our ecological means and overdrawing our natural assets." But, he cautioned: "Mother Nature doesn't do bailouts."

Something is going to have to give. The people of China and India want to live just like we do, with suburbs and cars and cell-phones and computers and air conditioning and meat three times a day and....and the planet can't take it. We need to find a sustainable way to have a high standard of living.

Maybe we can figure out how to live well and have a healthy planet at the same time. Maybe we can figure out how to keep our teeth clean without filling up the landfills.

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

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April 15, 2009

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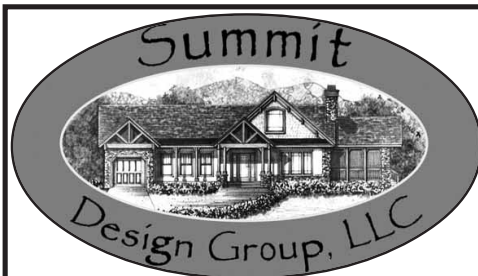
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... ROOM TAX continued from page 13

chambers which entitle the chambers to some of the room tax money, but the TDCs are the oversight committee to whom the chambers answer.

Since the chambers are entitled to some of the room tax money, they need a separate contract with the county.

County Attorney Moxley said because the chamber is a private organization, the county must be very careful when dealing with them and must have a separate contract with them for services rendered for the promotion of travel and tourism.

"Due to new regulations, the counties have more involvement than in the past," said Horton. "The chambers and the visitor centers are a tool to help the county use the room tax money to promote travel and tourism. But the county is in charge not the chambers."

Horton asked Bob Kieltyka, Director of the Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce and Linda Harbuck, Director of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce, to submit an annual dollar amount that reflects the cost of their shared services with their visitor centers.

Horton said since those figures are basically "fixed" that annual amount can be delivered to the chambers monthly or in any other kind of disbursement they want.

All along Kieltyka has said that 30% of his salary comes from Room Tax money as does 10% of chamber operating expenses - rent, utilities, phone, fax, etc.

Drake and Kieltyka said now that the breakdown of room tax between the chamber and the visitor center will be delineated this way, the percentages previously quoted may change. Tuesday Kieltyka also said chamber employees operate the Highlands Visitor Center.

The disbursement of visitor center funds - those aside from salaries and operational expenses - will be handled as suggested at the March 23 MC Commission meeting by Horton.

Through the use of purchase orders, invoices or grant applications - all of which constitute "contracts" - Southard will pre-audit and OK all expenses and will disburse

the money when due. She said a paper trail is necessary and everything the chambers or visitor centers enter into must be accompanied with some sort of "contract."

Currently, room tax money pays for many annual items for which the amount and terms of payment are known like annual events or marketing avenues. But there are costs that come up unexpectedly and those instances concerned members.

"What if a magazine calls and says 'We'll give you this 1/2 page ad for 1/4 page price but you have to commit and pay right now,'" asked Norris.

Horton said visitor centers can commit as long as there is a "contract" associated with the request - an invoice, a purchase order, etc. That "contract" satisfies the pre-audit requirement so Southard can cut a check and mail it right away.

The county's finance department cuts checks once a week on Fridays and it issues purchase orders every Tuesday and Thursday. A backup signature procedure will also be set up "so there'll never be any lag time," said Horton.

Chamber members were concerned about paying organizations that request grant money which Moxley said can be handled with a generic grant application. The application will protect the county and the chambers and delineate duties of the recipients of the grant money.

The application will serve as the necessary "contract" for pre-auditing purposes, so Southard can issue checks for grants. But organizations granted funds for events will be required to first submit a detailed budget as to how the money will be spent and then issue a post-affair report documenting actual expenses.

Horton said generic answers like "used for travel" won't be accepted. "We'll need exact details," he said.

Horton will report on the outcome of the meeting at the April 13 MC Commission meeting. The TDC/county/chamber/visitor center relationship and the set administration fee will take effect July 1, 2009.

- **Kim Lewicki**

... LETTERS continued from page 2

of the worlds' nations, and the United Nations will become the arbiter should their current plans take place.

The Treasury Secretary has opened talks for a global currency with other nations who leverage their military, and their proximity to petroleum, against our nation. Nations who receive our support and who benefit from our alliance are warning us of the disaster that awaits us should the United States continue to subsidize failure.

Capitalism hit a brick wall with the first bailout, TARP, by a republican president from the far right. A stubborn man

who acts in concert with oil companies suckered the American people for 700 Billion dollars. The trend has continued, now with an audacious man that will spend so much money that the taxpayers will be leveraged more than the companies being bailed out.

This is an invitation to a protest to the current plan of subsidized failure and global financial coordination. Without competition among the nations there will be a freeze in innovation and creativity. Our system of competition and free enterprise will morph into a system of political nepotism and a loss of life, liberty, and the pur-

suit of happiness. Freedom as we have known it will cease to exist.

The message is clear. Quit it. Money we haven't earned is already being entitled to people who are not even on this continent, or who haven't even been born yet. Tell Congress to stop. Tell the Executives to back off. Tell them that our local banks are just fine and that they should be satisfied with enough instead of more. Tell the rest of the world that we will pray for them. Free market American capitalism has produced wealth upon wealth and it is being plundered before our very eyes. It is time for us as Americans to empower ourselves. We began as a grassroots nation and this is

not the change we voted for.

American Taxpayers who have the time and energy are encouraged to participate in a protest to the aforementioned. The location, day, and time are: the old Jackson County Courthouse at the bottom of the steps by the fountain; on April 15, 2009; from noon until 7 p.m.

Bring a sign, write a chant, encourage others to stand up to socialists and send a message to the politicians. Republicans and Democrats can come together with the Independents on this one. Thank you.

Taxed Enough Already
Jonathan P. Sellers
Cashiers

From left, Cai Roman and Matt McClellan play the dueling personalities of Willoughby Adams -- the mischievous boy and the good boy -- in Highlands School's production 'The Inner Willy' on stage at PAC April 16-18



An inside look at the makings of Willy in 'The Inner Willy'

By Cai Roman
a.k.a. Inner Willy

Theatre, according to Dr. Ronnie Spilton, is magical. During my few weeks of acting I have definitely experienced this phenomenon. When I am acting, I experience a feeling of freedom that comes with creating a completely different person. My character, Inner Willy, allows for free and fluid movements while gallivanting about. Inner

Willy has almost become my split personality that only emerges on stage. *The Inner Willy*, is an appropriate play for inexperienced actors because of the conversational dialogue, and it also provides the challenge of portraying the nature of dynamic characters (such as Matt McLellan's Willoughby), complicated back-and-forth dialogue, and of being able to ignore "invisible" characters like Inner Willy. The message it sends is perfect for younger actors as well; it deals with characters in their age group and can be applied to their own lives.

One thing that drew me to theatre is its striking similarity to playing on a sports team. I'll probably make Coach Smart weep saying this, but it's true. No, it doesn't require athleticism (although I can make a case for Inner Willy), but it does take lots of practice and team effort, and you need to be committed, focused, and disciplined. It also has the added challenge of memorizing lines.

This year marks the first time that I will be in a theatrical production, and I am thrilled to be able to work with the Highlands-Cashiers Players. I have also had the pleasure to be directed by Dr. Ronnie Spilton and Jim Gordon, who are both talented actors and directors, and have helped guide us to our full potential. I hope that they continue to direct school related productions; perhaps it will even lead to a Highlands School drama class. I have had a wonderful experience with theatre so far, and I plan on participating in the school play for the rest of my high school career.

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 9

death. For Jesus 2,000 years ago it was a cross. For Christians today it is acting against the way of the world.

By remembering Holy Week as if it is happening now, we take up our cross and allow ourselves to die to the world. We remember that Jesus' death led to resurrection. We learn that our death to the world leads to a new beginning and rebirth.

Thereby in one humble and selfless action, Jesus is an example to the whole

world that everything can change, that the Kingdom of God is here, that prayers are answered, that God is compassionate, and that the whole world is saved.

When we believe without seeing it, our Easter praise of "Alleluia, Christ is Risen," is not a 2,000-year-old sentimentality, but a modern-day reality. And for those who believe, you are most certainly not of the world, but thanks be to God, you are in it -- because it need you more than ever.

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DIRECTED BY RONNIE SPILTON
JIM GORDON
PERFORMED BY THE STUDENTS OF HIGHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL
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• 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.

• The Bascom is offering a host of art classes for preschoolers to pre-teens from now through the end of the school year. For more information, call (828) 526-4949, ext. 0#.

• 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).

• Collections for men and women overseas at Chestnut Hill Retirement community. A wide variety of items currently is needed, including books and magazines, CDs and DVDs, and small pocket books, which fit neatly in the BDUs (Battle Dress Uniforms). The drop point for all items will be under the flagpole at the Chestnut Hill Clubhouse on Clubhouse Trail. For any questions, or to schedule a drop-off call (828) 787-2114.

• 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.

• Raffle of handcrafted Stiefel Botanical Book to Benefit The Bascom. To purchase a raffle ticket, call 526-4949, ext. 8#.

• 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.

• Middle School students After School Program from 3-5 p.m. at the Rec Park. For more information please call 828.526.3556.

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.

• Taize worship at 7 p.m. at the Lutheran Chapel of the Holy Family, 2152 Dillard Road. There is a simple supper of bread and soup at 6 p.m. Dress is casual, and all are welcome. Call Chaplain Margaret Howell for more information: 828-526-2905 or email her at Knytengale@aol.com

1st & 3rd Thursdays

• The local affiliate of NAMI NC (National Alliance on Mental Illness), NAMI Appalachian South, meets from 7-9 p.m. at the Family Restoration Center, 1095 Wiley Brown Road, Franklin. NAMI offers peer support, education, and advocacy for individuals suffering from serious mental illness and their families and loved ones. Contact Ann Nandrea 369-7385, Carole Light 524-9769 or Mary Ann Widenhouse 524-1355 for more information.

2nd & 4th Fridays

• Community Drum Circle at the Highlands Rec Park, from 6-7:30 p.m. Come experience a fun family friendly drum circle. All ages are encouraged to attend

Highlands School play 'Inner Willy' at PAC April 16-19



"The Inner Willy" is a coming of age story, that tells about the journey of a boy, with a little help from his mischievous conscience, maturing, learning to make his own decisions and becoming a young man. The play will be staged April 16-19 at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center. Thursday through Saturday performances begin at 7:30 p.m., and a Sunday matinee starts at 2:30 p.m. For tickets call 526-9047.

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April 10-16

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

FAST & FURIOUS

rated PG-13

Friday: (4:30), 7:15, 9:30
Sat & Sun: (2:15), (4:30), 7:15, 9:30
Mon – Thurs (4:30), 7:15

MONSTER vs. ALIENS

rated PG

Friday: (4:10), 7:05, 9:10
Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:10), 7:05, 9:10
Mon – Thurs: (4:10), 7:05

KNOWING

rated PG-13

Friday: (4:20), 7:10, 9:20
Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:20), 7:10, 9:20
Mon – Thurs: (4:20), 7:10

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Mountain Garden Club
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May 23, 2009
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Baseball Park
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Hundreds of
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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

this free event. All experience levels welcomed. Celebrate community with facilitated interactive rhythmical dialogue. 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.

Thursdays, April 9

• The April meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will meet on Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Blue Ridge School, in Glenville. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always welcomed. The club meets every second Thursday at the Blue Ridge School at 6 p.m. September through March and 7 p.m. April through August.

Listen to WHLC (104.5 FM) at 5 p.m. for cancellation due to weather.

• The League of Women Voters of Macon County will host a program on the Native American Cultural Sites Preservation Project. The goal of the Project is to assist landowner in the identification and protection of Native American resources and to protect these sites. Project leaders Bill Dyar and Bill Evans will describe their work and discuss the importance of preserving our cultural heritage. There are many sites throughout Macon County and learning to identify them and understand their value will greatly enhance opportunities for conservation. The meeting will be held at Tartan Hall of the First Presbyterian Church. Lunch is available at noon by reservation—call 524-5192. The program will begin at 12:15. The public is invited.

• At the Episcopal Church Maundy Thursday Service 7 p.m. in the chapel with foot washing, the

stripping of the altar followed by the Altar of Repose (Blessed Sacrament Vigil). If you would like to sign up for an hour of vigil in the chapel throughout the night there will be a sign up sheet in the narthex.

Friday, April 10

• Come and see the Easter Dramatic Musical "Believe" featuring the Apostle Thomas. Experience drama, song, dance and decide for yourself if the name "Doubting Thomas" is fitting. Community Bible Church. Wednesday, at 6 pm and Good Friday at 6:30pm followed by International Coffees and Dessert. 828-526-4685.

• At noon, the Community Walk of the Stations of the Cross begins at Our Lady of the Mountain processing through town and ending at The First Baptist Church

• At the Episcopal Church at 1 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy followed by meditation; at 3 p.m. the bell will ring to symbolize the time Christ died on the cross.

Saturday, April 11

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a short, but strenuous hike, 1.5 miles up Chimneytop Mountain in Sapphire for a great 360 degree view. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank at 9AM; returning between noon and 1 p.m. Drive: 6 miles round trip. Bring water, walking stick, a snack if you wish; wear sturdy hiking shoes. Call leader Walker Taylor, 743-6977, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

• The Community Egg Hunt will be held Saturday at 11 a.m. at the Highlands Rec Park.

• HUMC Youth will be selling Chick-Fil-A bag lunches at the Community Easter Egg Hunt at the Rec Park Saturday. You'll get a Chick-Fil-A sandwich, chips, brownie and drink for \$5. 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.

• At the Episcopal Church, The Great Easter Vigil 7 p.m. on Saturday in the chapel will be the first Easter service with Baptism and sung liturgy.

Sunday, April 12

• The Macon County Convenience Centers will be closed on Sunday and reopen for business as usual on Monday, April 13.

• At the Episcopal Church, Easter Sunday services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the church. The Children's Egg Hunt will be held on the playground at 10 a.m.

• Easter Sunday Ecumenical Sunrise Service at the Nature Center at 6:45 a.m.

• Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin will hosts Dr. Edward Frost, Sunday. His Sermon will be "Immortals." The Service and the Children's Service begin at 11 AM. The Fellowship is located at 85 Sierra Drive just off Lakeside, 1.2 miles from Hardees. All are welcome. For info: 828/524-6777.

Tuesday, April 14

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a five-mile moderate hike to Rough Run and High Falls with many wildflowers along the way, an elevation change less than 200 feet but some scrambling over rocks at High Falls. Meet at the big yellow sign in the Ingles parking lot on US Hwy 64 about one mile east of the Cashiers Crossroads at 10:00am; Drive 20 miles round trip. Call leader Carl Blozan at 743-1765 for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Wednesday, April 15

• FreedomWorks members and area taxpayers will gather Wednesday from noon-1 p.m. at the downtown gazebo, across from the Macon County Courthouse in Franklin to send a message to leaders of both parties that taxpayers are angry with the bailouts, debt, pork projects, and wasteful spending rampant in Washington. Part of the national movement of "tea parties," protesters are gathering in the spirit of the Sons of Liberty in Boston, who in 1773 protested the British government by dumping tons of tea into the harbor. FreedomWorks is a grassroots organization with over 500,000 members nationwide dedicated to lower taxes, less government, and more freedom. There will be entertainment, speakers and food.

Saturday, April 18

• At Cyrano's author Todd Johnson will sign copies of "The Sweet By and By" from 1-3 p.m.

• Mirror Lake Litter Pickup. Meet at Thorn Park at 9 am.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 6.2-mile hike on the Chunky Gal Trail to Boteler Peak with an elevation change of 1331 feet. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9 a.m. Drive 34 miles round trip. Call leader Bill Van Horn at 369-1983 for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please

• A tour of Appalachian State University. Leave Highlands School at 7:15 a.m. Call John Dotson at 526-5587 or 526-5868 after 6 p.m.

Come celebrate Earth Day on April 25



It's year five and better than ever! Highlands Whole Life Market, UCWA, Highlands Cashiers Land Trust, and Jackson Macon Conservation Alliance are hosting the free Earth Day event. Come and enjoy the live music featuring Buffalo from Asheville and local talents Frazzled Edge and Cashiers Music Company on the green.

Take a turn on the climbing wall or bounce around with some friends in the castle or maybe a little badminton/ basketball fun.

Learn from local builders and environmentally friendly merchants about greening up your lifestyle. Learn about more recycle opportunities with John Woods and earth art sponsored by the Bascom Louise Gallery and Highlands Art League.

Of course our furry friends from the Humane Society will be showing off for a new start and the Highlands Nature Cen-

ter will be exhibiting more exotic native wildlife.

The United Methodist Church will be serving a scrumptious potato bar with all the trimmings alongside the Girl Scouts and if you have a hankering for something sweet or salty visit the JMCA snack shack. The money raised from the food goes to the UMC missionary work and offset the costs of this event.

Special thanks to our sponsors Koenig Builders, Nellis Construction, United Community Bank, Sillbark Builders, Laurel Magazine, & Cashiers Exxon as well as the aforementioned hosts.

This event is held rain or shine on April 25 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Village Green in Cashiers. Bring the kids and celebrate the beautiful mountains in which we live on our precious planet Earth. For more information call J-MCA or Highlands Cashiers Land Trust at 526- 9938.



Upcoming Book Signings
526-5488 • Main Street
e-mail: cyranos@nctv.com

April 18

1 to 3 pm

Todd Johnson

The Sweet By and By

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.

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ELECTRICIAN'S HELPER, PLUMBER'S HELPER, AND CARPENTER'S HELPER – needed for a few days work. Most have transportation and some tools. May lead to more work. Call 828-421-1995 and leave message with name, phone # and brief experience overview. 4/9

RETAIL SALES: Stone Lantern Inc. is seeking part-time seasonal help. 25 hours per week, 9 am to 2:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Salary negotiable. Call 828/526-2769 or stop by for application.

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 Records Clerk needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full time position available. Knowledge in Medical terminology, anatomy, and physiology required. Computer skills necessary. Medical Records experience preferred. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 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 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

Dietary Aides needed the in Nutritional Services department at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Part-time and PRN positions available. Must have dietary experience. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

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.

RN/LPN needed at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. Full time position available for 12 hour day and night shifts. 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

RESIDENTIAL FOR SALE

3-BEDROOM, 2 1/2 BATH. New paint inside and out. New carpet. Below Appraisal. \$199,000. Cashiers Area. Call 743-1107 or 371-1609. 4/30

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COMMERCIAL IN WRIGHT SQUARE – two buildings with AC & Heat. Call Harold Brammer. 828-526-5673. 4/16

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)

NEW LUXURY HOME FOR SALE OR LEASE IN SCALY Mt. 3 BR, 3.5 BA, 2.88 acres. Appraised \$757,000, reduced to \$499,900 or lease \$2750/mth. Additional lots for sale. 404-272-2131 www.thomasknob.com/homes.html (5/14)

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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

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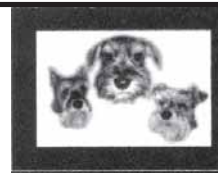
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area, kitchen and utility room. \$650/month. \$300 security deposit. First and last month rent. Rent includes utilities, (electric, water, heat, local phone) One year lease. Prefer non-smoker. No pets. Unfurnished. Good for 1-2 people. Call 526-9494.

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

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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

FURNISHED 3BD2BATH HOUSE IN MIRROR LAKE area available for 6-12 month lease \$1200+ utilities. Call 770-977-5692.

3BR, 2BA COTTAGE NEAR MIRROR LAKE – In town. \$1250 per month. Very clean. 770-977-5692.

ON MIRROR LAKE – Charming 3 bed, 2 bath. Huge sunroom, stone fireplace, 3 decks, canoe, furnished. Available Nov-May. \$1,500 a month plus utilities. Call 770-435-0678.

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

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

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ITEMS FOR SALE

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REDUCED! 52" BIG-SCREEN TV RCA Home-Theater edition, with guide-plus gold. Moving and its too big to take. \$375 or OBO; this TV is in great condition and has a perfect picture, purchased at Circuit-city. Allows for 480P HD through Direct-tv. Call cell: 828-342-2809

LENOX CHINA "AUTUMN" PATTERN – \$125 for 5-piece place setting or sell by the piece at 20% below store prices. Call 526-0498

3-PIECE BEDROOM SET – Oak veneer. one dresser, one desk, one chest. \$300. Call 526-5772.

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3976. 4/23
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Girls' Clubhouse gets donations



On May1-3, The Girls' Clubhouse is traveling to Charlotte, NC, to work with the Salvation Army and have a little fun. To help fund the trip, Brian Crook, Hotel Manager with OEI and Hillrie Quin gave the club money. The girls are also raising money by picking up litter and having bake sales. Above is Hillrie Quin with the club and below is Brian Crook.



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School jelly bean winner



The winners of the Jelly Bean Contest sponsored by the HS Cafeteria were announced on April 1. Students were allowed to guess how many jelly beans were in a jar once a day. The total number of jelly beans was 803. Katie Deal guessed the exact number. Because Katie was on the 5th grade trip to Charleston, her brother, Tanner Stephens, accepted the jelly beans on her behalf. Pictured are back row: Tanner Stephens, Kassie Vinson, Eden Ingate, and Cafeteria Manager, June Zachary. Front row: William Chastain, Lupe May-Gomez, Joana Jimenez-Reyes, and Rebekah Wiggins.

Photo by Carol Bowen

• POLICE & FIRE •

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for March 24-April 7. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

- Four times in four days, the dept. provided a welfare check to a resident on Horse Cove Road. Her family in Florida has been notified as have agencies which are helping provide food and financial assistance.

March 28

- At 8:15 a.m., officers conducted a canine search of the lockers at Highlands School. Nothing was found.

March 31

- At 2:01 a.m., officers responded to a call for service at the Subway in Highlands Plaza where a door was found open. There was no problem and the business was secured.

- At 10:50 a.m., officers received a call concerning obtaining property by false pretenses when a resident of Highlands reported receiving a worthless check for the sale of baseball paraphernalia to a customer in California.

- At 3:30 p.m., officers were called to Azalea Court concerning a noise ordinance violation, there was no violation.

- At 5:10 p.m., Jose Torres, 22, of Highlands, was arrested for DWI and no license when his vehicle was stopped in Highlands Plaza due to the tinted windows.

- At 8 p.m., Officers responded to a call of a possible noise ordinance violation at a work site on Horse Cove Road. It was unfounded.

- At noon, officers received a call concerning illegal funds withdrawn electronically from a resident's Highlands account. The case is under investigation.

April 1

- Officers responded to a call of an open door at a residence on Wyanoak Drive. The residence was checked out and secured.

- At 3:25 a.m., officers responded to a call for service when OEI security noticed an open door at a business on N. 4th Street. The business was checked out and secured.

- During the week the officers issued 9 citations and responded to 3 alarms. The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of March 31-April 5

April 1

- The dept. responded to a carbon monoxide alarm at a residence on Worley Road. It was unfounded.

April 3

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Dog Mountain Road. There was no transport.

April 5

- The dept. responded to a call of a possible electrical fire at a residence on Cold Mountain Circle. There was a problem with the pump for the water well.

• FUN & GAMES •

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.

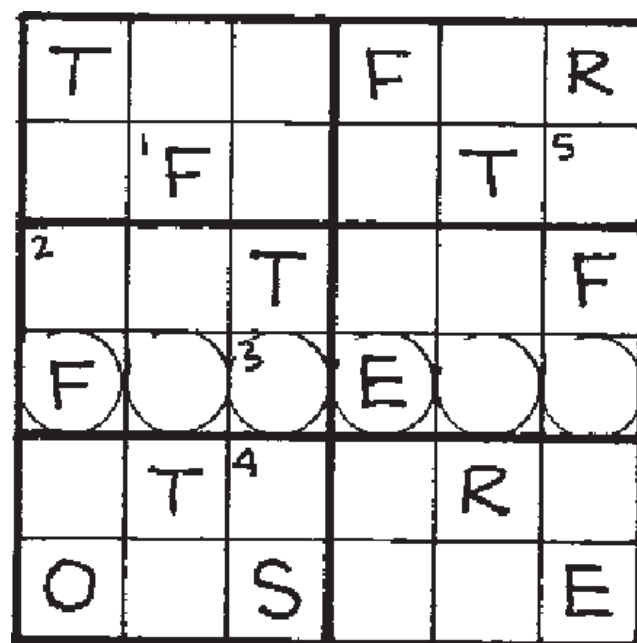
Mystery Word Woods

Across

1. Happy Gathering (4)
2. Put (3)
3. Relaxation (4)
4. Because of (3)

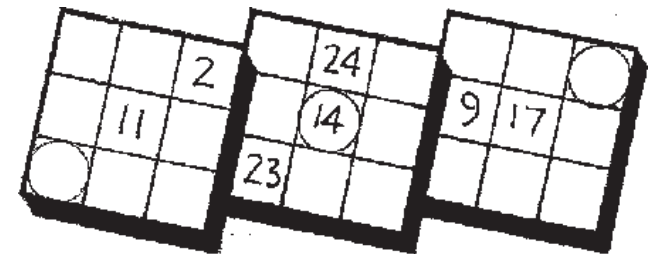
Down

5. Many Times (poetic) (3)



PseudoCube[©]

by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook



#DN1A Level of Difficulty - Hard

THE SETUP:

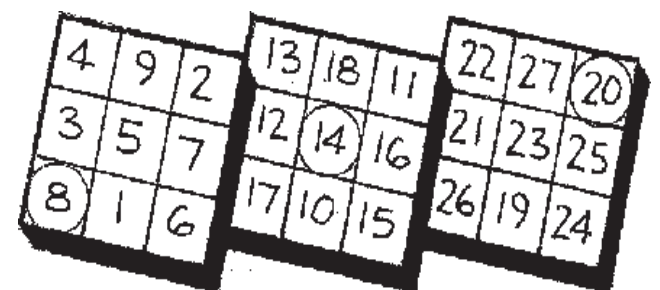
The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern: For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running through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

THE CHALLENGE:

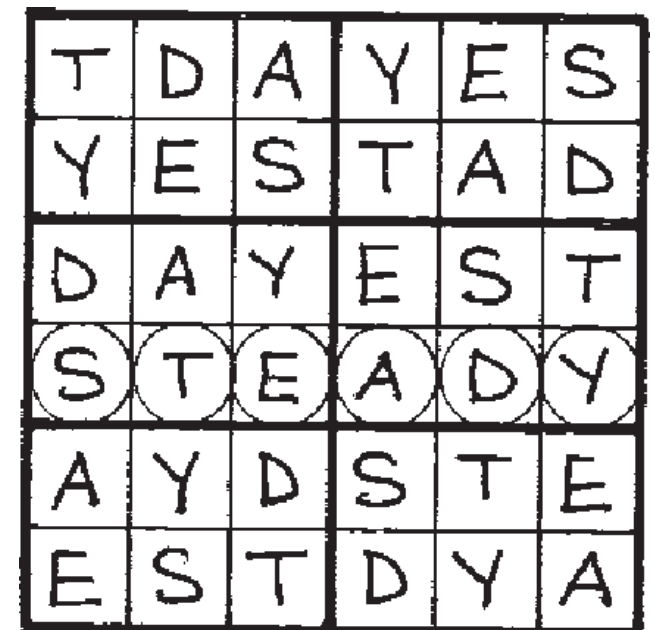
Start with the three center numbers for each layer and the other numbers given. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other numbers belong. Good Luck!

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com.

Solution to #BN1A in April 2 issue



Solution to April 2 Hex-a-Ku



Main Street

COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES

Mt. Fresh

Wright Sq. 828-526-2520 | www.ccphighlandsnc.com | ccp4info@verizon.net



This close-to-town cottage has it all, new wood floors, granite counter tops, new appliances, new paint and is furnished to the T. The stone fireplace is great for winter nights and the deck has a mountain view. It has 3 large bedrooms each with their own bath. Upstairs has a sitting room or library with a great view of the mountains. Owner wants offer so go look.



HFCC. Affordable with a great view, this 3-bedroom, 3-bath plus a loft has all the comforts for summer or year round living. Dumbwaiter for groceries, generator, and 2-car garage. Huge great room plan, with spacious decks for entertaining, or just relaxing while you take in the mountain vistas. All of this is with the amenities of gated access, swimming, tennis, and golf with purchase and upon approval into Highlands Falls Country Club. Offered at \$895,000. mls #67431



Lovely 3-bedroom, 3-bath home with spacious open plan on main level with superb view of Sunset Rock. Includes a spacious outdoor living area with stone fireplace. Master bedroom suite offers an office, charming bath with spacious and separate shower, spacious closets and heated floor. Downstairs bonus room includes laundry and full bath with an additional sunroom. Offered at \$625,000. mls #67267



Great starter that overlooks the Cullasaja River tributary of Mirror Lake. One bedroom, one bath, plus room for a pullout sofa in the living room. Large patio and one-car garage. Recently updated and a great way to enjoy Highlands. Offered at \$219,900. mls #67223



Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. Exceptional location with walk-to-the-clubhouse convenience, this 3-bedroom 3 1/2-bath home features spacious rooms and wide open floor plan. Fully renovated from top to bottom with quality materials that features wood floors, stacked stone, stainless steel appliances and granite countertops. Covered rear porch with a view of the 16th Tee and Fairway and the mountain beyond. Two-car garage with large entry Carport and half circle driveway. A great home at a great price! Offered at \$695,000. mls #67548



Cullasaja Club. Located High atop one of the Highest Ridges in Cullasaja Club, This large estate offers the ultimate in view and privacy. Almost 4 acres that adjoins USFS land, this is one of the best locations in the club, flat usable grounds with a quality 3-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath main house and charming guest house. Additional lot adds possibility for family compound or keeps the privacy of your own kingdom. Offered at \$3,300,000. mls #67407



Charm exudes from this professionally decorated 3-bedroom, 4-bath home located on Mountain Laurel lane near Highlands Country Club and Mountain Laurel Tennis Club. Lofty ceilings and a wonderful outdoor living room with fireplace. Furnishings are negotiable and a great opportunity for \$895,000. mls #67295



Old Highlands Charm with this charming cottage that sits overlooking the headwaters of the Cullasaja River with lake access to Mirror Lake. Recently renovated, this home is in excellent condition and is an exceptional opportunity. Launch you canoe or boat after closing and enjoy the benefits of living on the water! Offered at \$575,000. mls #67443



This charming home is located in the quite community of Wildwood Mountain just a few miles from downtown Highlands. Two levels of newly renovated living area with a bonus room downstairs that acts as a 4th bedroom. A private trout pond in the back yard adds to family fun along with community tennis courts, fishing lake, and canoeing. Offered at \$575,000 MSL # 67452.



Horse Cove. Nature, Serenity -get back to the reason you came here! REDUCED \$49,000. Spacious and immaculate 4-BR, 3.5-bath home with loads of room to entertain friends and family. 2-car garage, on over an acre. Big Creek in view of the porch! \$549,000. #67423



Privacy and solitude with this 10 acres that back to USFS lands. 3 Bedrooms, 2 baths plus a full basement and 2-car garage. Bright sun room and in excellent condition. Additional room for grand kids in the attic area, and a full unfinished basement for a workshop. Offered at \$535,000. mls #67183

Financing Alternatives Available!! Owner Financing Available!! Lease to Own! Located close to downtown Highlands, you must see this mountain cottage to appreciate its charm. Enter to a spacious, bright living area with hardwood floors and a lot of windows. A dining room and open kitchen, and one-bedroom, one-bath on the main level, all with hardwood floors. Upstairs is a second bedroom and bath. A whole house generator is a great benefit when living in the mountains. Nice open deck on the back and a gently sloping yard which backs up to Glen Falls Road with nearby waterfalls and hiking trails. This home is perfect for year round living or weekend getaways. \$399,000 MLS # 66295

... FORUM continued from page 2

ilies like yours and mine are soon going to be paying heavy penalties to the government for not meeting this unrealistic standard.

Under the proposal, power producers would pay a 3¢ per kilowatt-hour penalty for all power that doesn't meet the national standard. PACE calculates that this Alternative Compliance Payment would amount to \$567 million each year for North Carolina. Across the Southeast, the penalty could be as high as \$5 billion annually. This sum would be passed through to residential and industrial electricity customers, resulting in higher power bills for everyone.

With hydroelectric not an option, Southern states would have to rely on solar, wind, and biomass to meet a 20% standard. However, the U.S. Department of Energy reports that very little solar or wind capacity exists in North Carolina today. Solar energy in the United States is strongest in the desert southwest, while wind resources are concentrated mostly across the Great Plains. The result is that biomass could become the only viable option we have for meeting such a standard in the Southeast.

But the biomass option, too, poses major problems in North Carolina. Major North Carolina industries such as the state's 11 pulp and paper mills currently rely on forest resources for raw materials. Forest industries currently account for about 50,000

jobs in the state. Higher demand for forest products could force the closure of some of these mills. The same is true for Alabama, my home state.

In addition, the official La Capra report estimated that more than 65,000 North Carolinians could lose their jobs as the result of higher electricity prices due to the RPS. Estimates are that these jobs could eventually be replaced by growth in the renewable energy sector, but that sector has been slow to grow across the Southeast. As I explained to a meeting of Southern labor leaders in Raleigh a few weeks ago, the current RPS proposal has unintended consequences that pose great harm to our regional economy.

I created PACE because these new proposals are not fair to the Southeast, where I live and work. Working families and businesses here don't deserve to pay more under a renewable energy standard, while others pay less.

• Lance Brown is Executive Director of PACE, the Partnership for Affordable Clean Energy, a non-profit organization. Headquartered in Montgomery, Alabama, PACE is fighting for federal energy policies that are affordable for working people and fair to the Southeast. Learn more at www.energyfairness.org.

For more information, contact Lance Brown at lance@energyfairness.org



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First Presbyterian Church of Highlands Holy Week 2009

Thursday, April 9, 2009
7:00 p.m.

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

Friday, April 10, 2009
12:00 noon

"Stations of the Cross"
Sponsored by the churches of Highlands.
Meet at Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church

Sunday, April 12, 2009

6:45 a.m.
"Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service"
Sponsored by the churches of Highlands.
Service held at the Highlands' Biological Center Amphitheater.

10:55 a.m.
"Easter Sunday Service"
Sermon by Rev. Dr. Lee Bowman
One Great Hour of Sharing



9:00 a.m. Sunday Church School at the Peggy Crosby Center

Call 828-526-3175 for more information.



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Rev. Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor

Rev. Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate

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Cashiers Hwy. 64e
10 Miles

TWIGS

Chandler Inn

Community Center & Library

FOREMAN RD.

Hwy 107S

Whole Health Market

Rec. Park Pool & Tennis Greenway Trail

- | DINING | LODGING | SHOPPING | SHOPPING |
|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Bucks | 1 Chandler Inn | 1 Acorns | 22 T.A. Anderson |
| 2 Cafe 460 | 2 Fire Mountain | 2 AnnaWear | 23 Tin Roof Gallery |
| 3 Don Leons | 3 Half Mile Farm | 3 Bear Mt. Outfitters | 24 Twigs |
| 4 Fireside | 4 Hampton Inn | 4 C.K. Swan | 25 Village Kids |
| 5 Fressers | 5 Highlands Inn | 5 Christmas Shop | 26 Wholesale Down |
| 6 Highlands Deli | 6 Highlands Suites | 6 Cyrano's | 27 Wine & Cheese |
| 7 Horacio's | 7 Main St. Inn | 7 Drakes Diamonds | 28 Wits End |
| 8 Log Cabin | 8 Michell's Lodge | 8 Dry Sink | 29 |
| 9 Madison's | 9 Mirror Lake | 9 Dutchman's | |
| 10 Nick's | 10 Mt High Lodge | 10 Elephants Foot | MARKETS |
| 11 Oak St. Cafe | 11 Old Edwards Inn | 11 Guritz Antiques | 1 Bryson's |
| 12 Paoletti's | 12 The Lodge | 12 Highlands Photo | 2 Dusty's |
| 13 Pescado's | 13 Skyline Lodge | 13 Mill Creek Gallery | 3 Mtn. Fresh |
| 14 Pizza Place | 14 Chambers | 14 Needle Point | 4 Whole Health |
| 15 Rib Shack | REALTY | 15 Peak Experience | BEAUTY |
| 16 Rooster's | 1 Buyer's Realty | 16 Rarities | 1 All Seasons |
| 17 SportsPage | 2 Century 21 | 17 Scudders Antq. | 2 Creative Concepts |
| 18 SweetTreats | 3 Chambers | 18 Shiraz Rugs | 3 Images Unlimited |
| 19 Wild Thyme | 4 Country Club Prop | 19 Stone Lantern | 4 Taylor Barnes |
| 20 Wolfgang's | 5 Green Mtn. | 20 Summit One Gallery | 5 The Salon |
| 21 | 6 John Schiffl | 21 Summer House | 6 |
| 22 | | | |

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