

# Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 7, Number 9

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Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009

## This Week in Highlands

• Friends of Panthertown work days, last Thursday of every month. Contact Nina Elliott at 526-9938 (ext 258).

• Collections for men and women overseas at Chestnut Hill Retirement community. Call (828) 787-2114.

• At Health Tracks at the hospital exercise classes. Call 526-1FIT.

**Mon. & Wed.**

• Middle School students After School Program from 3-5 p.m. at the Rec Park. Call 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.

**Mondays**

• Open 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.

**Thursdays**

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

**2nd & 4th Fridays**

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

**Saturday, Feb. 28**

• Car Wash and Yard Sale at the First Citizen's Bank from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All proceeds benefit Highlands School 5th Grade trip to Charleston.

• Benefit for police officer Richard Davis at the Highlands Rec Park from 6-9 p.m. To-go plates start at 5:30 p.m. BBQ plates and desserts for sale. Silent auction and entertainment by the Oliver Rice and Johnny Webb & the JW Band.




• The Highlands Rotary Club will hold its annual Monte Carlo Night 6 pm at the Highlands Community Building Tickets available at: The Macon Bank; Highlands Recreation Park, Highlands Chamber of Commerce, Basketcase in Highlands and Highlands Decorating Center.

**Thursday, March 5**

• Democrats! Highlands Democratic Precinct meeting will be held Thursday, March 5 at the Rec Park at 5:30 p.m. Come participate in the elections of officers for our precinct and help decide the local party direction for the next year. Call 526-3363.

• Taize worship at 7 p.m. at the Lutheran Chapel of the Holy Family, 2152 Dillard Road. Call Chaplain Margaret Howell 526-2905.

## Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
50 / 38F	49 / 27F	41 / 27F

## Well diggers speak out at meeting

Monday night's board room was packed with people representing the county's well-drilling industry who are dissatisfied with state laws regulating its industry as well as the county's interpretation of those regulations.

Three county ordinances were also discussed.

Crane Brothers, Hedden and others voiced displeasure with the

time it takes the county to sign off on drinking water wells – a total of nine days from start to finish which by state law must include four-five site visits.

"I have been doing this for 42 years and three months and what we have here is a wrinkle between government and local business," said Bruce Hedden. "I'm 26% down in production and it's all because of

turnaround time due to the time it takes for inspections."

Back in May, when the new state program was first discussed, Health Department Director Jim Bruckner interpreted the new regulations in a way that would have made the turnaround time for inspections and production must faster.

• See DIGGERS page 4

## Test scores explained at BOE meeting

At lot of the Monday, Feb. 23 school board meeting revolved around state testing results and out-of-state tuition procedures, specifically for Highlands School.

Superintendent Dan Brigman and staff recently returned from an accountability conference in Greensboro, NC, where the results of 3rd grade 2008-2009 pre-test scores were addressed at length.

"When I first saw the scores I lost my breath," said Brigman. "But we learned the state changed the bar mid-stream and we are to look at these again in the spring."

Second-grade teachers saw the poor results as an indication of their proficiency as teachers but the state has said the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers aren't to blame for the low test scores and they issued a statement of explanation.

They said the new 2008-09 pre-test for third graders was the first time such a test was administered and the first time students new to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade ever took a standardized test where they had to read independently and answer questions in a bubble format, said Testing Coordinator Pat Davis. "This coming off summer break the second week of school, basically just out of the second grade was tough for them."

The state announced that the pre-test was given at the start of



Mayor Don Mullen presented Richard Betz with a plaque of appreciation at his retirement ceremony Friday, Feb. 20.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

## Betz retires with 26+ years of service

Co-workers, friends and family gathered to say "Good-bye" to Richard Betz, Town Administrator of Highlands Friday, Feb. 20 at the Highlands Community Building.

Throughout his 26.2 years as an employee of Highlands, Betz

has worn many hats from official titles as town administrator, zoning administrator, planner, clerk, treasurer to non-official titles like "Plant waterer."

Mayor Don Mullen opened the evening ceremony acknowl-

• See RETIRES page 15

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## Town Board tidbits from Feb. 11 meeting

At the Feb. 11 Town Board meeting, Town Manager Jim Fatland presented a comprehensive treasurer's report including a summary comparing this time this year to this time last year.

"You'll see on the summary page, that year-to-date revenues are up slightly – 1.5% — from this time last year," he said. "Whereas expenditures indicate spending is 6% faster than this time last year."

Current month revenues totaled \$944,958. Revenue for the town is reflected in the General Fund and comes from various taxes, fees, and state and federal reimbursements.

Year-to-date revenue is \$3,885,563 with 64.76% revenues collected compared to the same year-to-date period last year at 63.21%.

Current month's expenditures are \$371,899; year-to-date \$3,262,233 or 54.37% compared to this time last year at 47.75%.

Once again statistics indicate that NC Local Option Sales Tax proceeds continue to surprise – for year-to-date 2008-'09, \$567,757.46 has been collected with only 29.03% of the \$800,000 budgeted left to be

• See TIDBITS page 5

• See TESTING page 8



# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • LETTERS •

### Rational thinking, not 'talking points' is the answer to economic problems

Dear Editor

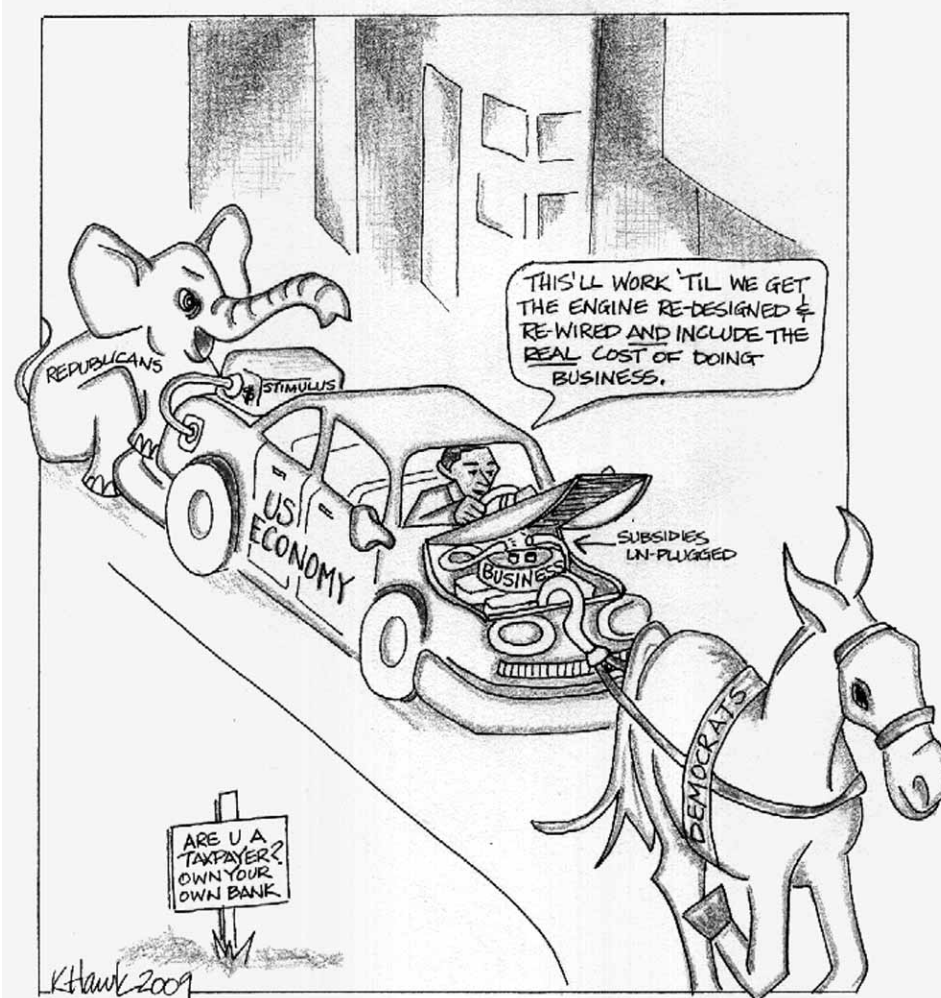
As we see the world's developed countries try to avert economic armageddon, we need to reject the use of talking points based on political party ideology and look rationally at our situation. In particular, the following "truths" need to be dismissed for their profound lack of accuracy:

1. Tax cuts are the key component of any sound economic policy. The tax cuts of Kennedy, Reagan and Bush are being cited as resounding successes worthy of emulation. The Kennedy tax cuts were proposed as policy cutting the top marginal rates from 91 to 65%, and the capital gains tax from 25% to 19.5%. To complete this, tax policy legislation was enacted under Lyndon Johnson which permanently lowered tax rates to these approximate levels. President Johnson also initiated a "guns and butter" (Vietnam War and Great Society) economic policy which was seen as largely responsible for the inflation which threatened our economic security in the following decade.

2. The Reagan Tax cuts were wildly successful. The lowest percentage of national debt compared to Gross Domestic Product since World War II occurred under Jimmy Carter. It nearly doubled during the 12 years of the Reagan/Bush administrations. Then it declined under Clinton (thanks in part to a tax increase supported by no Republicans). The Clinton administration ended with a healthy economy (mild recession, significant progress in job creation and middle class income) and a balanced budget.

3. The second Bush administration featured a record period of economic growth. While this may be true in some respects, it does not reflect the near doubling of the national debt from 5.7 trillion to 10 trillion dollars, and the lack of progress by the middle class (virtually no jobs created). One could consider the 4.3 trillion dollars of deficits incurred by the Bush administration as over 500 billion dollars a year in economic stimulus. Then the question becomes how the current concern of the Republicans was so absent as this travesty of economic man-

## • 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.

agement was occurring. To put it into perspective, every dollar spent on Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Medicare Drug Entitlements was borrowed from our children and grandchildren. We are certainly the most hypocritical generation economically in the history of our country.

4. Tax cuts greatly increase revenue growth. Real (adjusted) revenue growth was 19% for the Reagan administration and 41% for the Clinton administration. Bush II's numbers are lower than Reagan's.

Now for some economic truths:

1. We have an endless march of governors (both Democrats and Republicans) wanting federal stimulus dollars while preceding their remarks with self-congratulatory remarks about their record of tax cuts. We seem to have embraced tax cuts as the medicine for which there is no cure. Once cut they are embraced as acts of moral superiority and not subject to reconsideration (except by Reagan, Bush I, and Clinton).

2. Stable policies in both taxing and spending are more effective. For the United States to regain national economic health, we need to embrace the economic policies of revenue stability and fiscal restraint. When we return to economic growth we should not listen to any politician advocating a new social program unless a prior off-setting program cut is achieved. Cutting taxes in some categories may be more fair, but in reality it demands the same scrutiny as an increase in spending. Tax cuts need to occur only after our budget is balanced and a sizable portion of the national debt retired. Deficit spending may have a more stimulative effect on the economy than unfunded tax cuts, but in a future growing economy, both need to be rejected. Rhetoric over "returning the people's money" must be considered in terms of a deficit, not a surplus. If we have to borrow the money for tax cuts, it is a debt written for future generations to resolve, not the just return of our rightful wealth.

3. For Democrats, there will be no peace dividend. We live in a dangerous world. If for some reason (highly unlikely) defense spending can safely be reduced, the resultant windfall needs to be devoted to deficit reduction, not program creation.

4. All of us need to treat this economic crisis as our legacy to our children. Our parents gave us a safer, more prosperous world than they inherited. I doubt seriously if history will be so kind to us.

Ron Leslie  
Highlands

## Highlands' Newspaper

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Email: HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor - Kim Lewicki; Copy Editor - Tom Merchant

Cartoonist - Karen Hawk; Circulation & Digital Media  
Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at [www.HighlandsInfo.com](http://www.HighlandsInfo.com)

265 Oak St.; P.O. Box 2703, Highlands, N.C., 28741

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## • OBITUARY •

### Hazel Jane McClure

Hazel Jane McClure, age 86, of the Goldmine Community, in Highlands, NC, died Monday, February 23, 2009 in a Highlands hospital. She was a native of Macon County, the daughter of the late Ellison and Delsie Gibson Dendy. She was married to the late Sherman McClure, who passed away May 4, 2003. She was a homemaker and a member of Goldmine Baptist Church.

She is survived by one son, Richard S. McClure of Highlands, NC; two brothers, Alton Dendy and Frank Eugene Dendy both of Highlands, NC; two grandchildren and one great-grandchild also survives. She was



preceded in death by a son, Leon McClure.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, February 25th at 2:00pm at Goldmine Baptist Church, with Rev. William Wooten and Rev. Alton Dendy officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Moriah Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Mt. Moriah Cemetery Fund, c/o Mary Owens, 21 Pinecone Drive, Franklin, NC 28734. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Online condolences may be made at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).

## • MILESTONE •

### Frederick on Chancellors List

Claire Frederick, HS Class of 2006, was named to both the Dean's List and the Chancellor's List at UNC-Greensboro for the Fall Semester.

Students who earn a grade point average of 3.50 or better and who have no grade below B- for the semester. To make Chancellor's List, full-time undergraduates must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.65 of a possible 4.0.

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## • MEMORIAL •

### Service for James G. Arnold III

Mr. James "Jim" G. Arnold III, 77, died on December 26, 2008 in Cashiers, NC where he resided. Jim was buried in Oxford, NC, on December 29, 2008.

A memorial service will take place at Community Bible Church of Highlands on March 1, 2009 at 3 p.m. For more information call the CBC office at 526-4685.

## Democrats!

On Thursday, March 5 a Highlands Democratic Precinct meeting will be held at the Rec Park at 5:30 p.m. Please come and participate in the elections of officers for our precinct and help decide the direction you want to see your local party take for the next year.

For more info,  
call 526-3363

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## • LAUGHING AT LIFE •

A couple weeks ago I was verbally pounded by an offended reader concerning my flawless research and investigative reporting on women's bras. I'm sure he or she is going to nail me again after reading this. Yes, I'm concerned 'cause I like all my readers to be happy.

Will everyone please lighten up for crying out loud? There's a dad-gum depression on the way and we need to yuck it up a bit.

Besides, Highlanders need information about the sex life of the camel because, if you recall, there's a camel in our Christmas Parade. Camels can become unpredictably...well, you know...sexually

aroused. Also, last week, in my "predictions and rumors" column I informed readers that Emirates Airline has the scariest coach passengers on the planet. I wasn't kidding.

I bring this up because, at this moment, the li'l missus and I are sitting in the business class section of a Boeing triple seven on our way to Dubai.

First and business class sections are reserved for oil czars, sheiks, American CEOs smuggling stimulus tax dollars out of

America and governors and senators fleeing jail time. Oh, and then there's the li'l missus and me, parents of an Emirates pilot with flying privileges.

When I opened the curtain separating the privileged from coach passengers, this is what I saw. Of the 450 passengers on this flight, about half are Yasser Arafat look-a-likes, many wearing their traditional religious garb that resembles the tablecloths at Mario's Italian restaurant in Queens.

I counted 10 ladies wearing burkhas, not to be confused with Bad Berka, a town in the Weimarer Land district of Thuringia, Germany. But, of course, you knew that. The rest of the passengers were either Pakistanis or Indians returning to the Middle East after visiting relatives in America.

While these folks may look scary to westerners, remember, we look scary to them. Except for the Islamic radicals, they are much like us, traveling to visit relatives and trying to live the good life. Wait, what does this have to do with the sex life of a camel, you ask? Absolutely nothing!

As usual, I found the Internet an oasis for information about camel sex. For example, yoga exercisers have the "camel position." I can't describe in print but I think it requires some spitting. Here's a tip. Never ride a male camel when there are female camels "in season" around the area.

You may get the ride of your life. Also, a best seller in Dubai right now is "Sex and the Single Camel." It's about a camel that falls passionately in love with its master who rejects the animal's advances and sells it. It's a real tear jerker.

In Australia, the sex life of the camel has gone wild and they're multiplying faster than Mexicans.

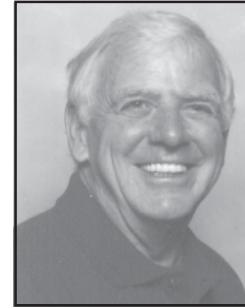
Australia's new policy is "if you can't beat 'em, eat em," so camel kabobs are now the rage. Actually, the hump, excuse my language,

is the tastiest part and some eat it raw. Double yuck!

I have also learned that male camels will have sex with anything stationary.

Actually, I was in the army with a few guys like that. Anyway, this is important to know if you're in Dubai and standing around being stationary. If you're approached by a friendly camel, run.

Also, in the Middle East regions, the infamous "camel toe" is an aphrodisiac when grilled and served with garlic hummus. I noticed many of Dubai's camels are missing a toe. Are you writing this down?



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!  
email:

askfredanything@aol.com

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## ... DIGGERS continued from page 1

"But when we went to the state meeting, I was told that I had interpreted them all wrong," said Bruckner. "Futhermore, we were told that counties that are issuing 'same day' permits are shortcutting the rules and are under investigation by the state."

Monday night, well diggers claimed that other counties in the area – Jackson County, included – are faxing permits or issuing same-day permits without jumping through the hoops the Macon County health department jumps through.

Well diggers also interpret the rules to allow them to self-certify, but Bruckner said that's only allowed if they call the department a day in advance, schedule a time and if the health department doesn't show up within an hour of the designated time, then they can self-certify. "But they still can't drill without a permit," said Buckner.

part of the problem is a lack of certified staff on his part coupled with the rules his department must abide by.

In the end, commissioners set up a meeting between all the well drillers in Macon County with the County Manager Jack Horton and the commission to try to come to an understanding between the exact rules the county must follow while trying to tighten the turnaround time it takes health department employees to inspect sites.

## Ordinances

The Junk, Abandoned Mobile Home and following a closed session, the subdivision ordinance were all discussed.

County Attorney Lesley Moxley said following the closed session, the board instructed her to draft a local bill to allow the county to make the intra-family transfer of land excluded from the subdivision ordinance making family subdivisions OK.

The Junk Ordinance, which Fred Crane of Crane Brothers also commented on, will be discussed at length during a worksession on March 12 from 6-8 p.m. in the board room.

"Junk is stuff some people keep that others don't want," said Crane. "It's not causing any problems, it's not polluting. People shouldn't come to this county and complain about what we've already got here. Junk yard lots don't bother anyone."

With 6,000 mobile homes in the county – which commissioners claim will all become abandoned someday – the county is trying to decide if it wants to get in the "removal of Mobile Home business" or take advantage of the state's program through House Bill 1134 which could help fund the removal.

The issue will also be discussed during the March 12 worksession. – KL



# • THE VIEW FROM HERE •

## Our attachment to strays

**L**ittle Valentine is dead. Lizzie and Bull took him to the vet on Monday. It turned out that Lizzie was right. Valentine was a very sick cat. She had feline AIDS. The vet examined her, put her down, and billed Lizzie \$206. If you find a sick or injured animal, and are on a budget, you may want to check charges with your local veterinarian before becoming a Good Samaritan. Don't, under any circumstances, name the animal. If you decide to take him to the vet, introduce him as puppy A or her as kitten B. Show emotion, display concern or attachment, or imply ownership and the price of euthanasia sky rockets.

I had always believed that vets and animal lovers had an unwritten contract. Under the terms of this agreement, the animal lover is expected to bring a damaged animal for care. In my imaginary contract, it is the responsibility of the vet to provide services and to charge only enough to cover the cost of care. He, or she, is expected to care for the animal without profit, but without financial loss. Good ole' Good Sam pays the nominal cost. Everybody wins. If the animal lives and the family adopts him, the vet will be in a position to provide full charge services for years. The family feels good about their action without feeling gouged. The vet is reminded why he entered the profession in the first place. The animal is either adopted or dead, but removed from misery in either case.

We moved to Seneca, S.C in 1988. A few months later I was riding my bike and saw a mournful Plott hound standing on the side of the road. I examined him and discovered a bullet wound in his shoulder. I rode home and returned in the car. Attila the hound, as he came to be known was waiting patiently. I took him to a vet and explained the situation. "Who," the vet asked, "is going to pay for his care?" I snapped that it was his job to care for Tila and mine to worry about paying. The leg was infected and had to be amputated. The vet charged me only for the cost of supplies. Dr. Ross charged neither for the surgery nor for boarding during recovery. Times change.

Strays have enriched my life for years. I found Anna, the best dog I have ever owned, knocking over garbage cans to eat. At the time she was only a few months old. She became my companion and remained



**Dr. Henry Salzarulo**

**Feedback is encouraged.  
email:**

**hsalzarulo@aol.com**

so for 16 years. She hiked with me in the Sawtooth Range in Idaho and shared a canoe on the Canadian border. We swam together in the Atlantic and Pacific, and in Lake Superior. When I was out of gas and nearly out of money, we slept together in the back of my pick up. It was January in Nebraska. The temperature was below zero and the wind velocity 30 miles per hour. I remember the truck shaking in the brutal frigid wind, not the gentle rocking of a cradle,

but the harsh jolting of an amusement park ride. That night I slept, or tried to sleep, in two sleeping bags. Anna was beside me, zipped up in my down jacket.

She knew the sound of my truck and was always standing, paws on the window ledge, when I came home from work. She was unbelievably graceful. I don't know that I've ever seen a prettier sight than her chasing sand pipers on the beach at Park Point, MN. They flew no more than a foot above the sand, and like a cruise missile, followed the contour of the land. The flock rose as they approached a dune or fence, while she in hot pursuit, nearly matched their path.

She grew old and she grew forgetful. Shortly before we moved to Seneca, I was living in Houston, Texas. I was painting my front entry and left the door open. It was the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Anna wandered out and disappeared. After a few weeks, I reluctantly accepted the fact that she was gone. Then, one day in mid-January, I returned from work and found her resting in the front yard. We had some goods days after that, but it was clear that Anna was failing and had to be put down. She was crippled with arthritis, senile, and nearly blind. She suffered frequent accidents. I suspected that the inability to control her bowels must have embarrassed her. In her youth she had been able to hold her waste even when I was unable to leave the hospital for a full 24r hours. We went to Hawaii over Christmas in 1989. When we returned, Dr. Ross told us that Anna had died and that he had buried her in his back yard. I've always suspected that he did for Anna what I could not, but I never asked. There was no bill for euthanasia, no charge for the burial, only a modest bill for the days he had boarded her. But that was a different time.

## ... TIDBITS continued from page 1

collected through June 30, 2009.

Year-to-Date property taxes collected are \$1,930,065.13 of the \$2,415,000 budgeted – or 20.08% left to be collected by June 30, 2009.

The tax collection scenario for Highlands somewhat mirrors that of the county which Macon County Commission Chair Ronnie Beale says indicates that citizens continue to support Franklin, Highlands and Macon County in general by "shopping" locally.

### Auditor Services

At Fatland's recommendation, Highlands' commissioners agreed to retain the services of the Martin Starnes CPA firm to perform the town's annual budget for \$20,500, a 3.5% increase over last year which includes the cost of the audit, preparation of the financial statements and printing costs for the report.

### Music Festival at K-H Park

The board granted the request of the Highlands-Cashiers Music Festival to use the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street for an outdoor picnic on July 10 of this year which will mean closing Pine Street between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> streets 4-7 p.m.

### Part-time Services

As per discussion at the board retreat on January 29, the board agreed to hire a part-

• See TIDBITS page 7

## Does Your "To Do" List Look Like This?

Lose weight✓  
Quit smoking✓  
Attend church✓  
Work hard✓  
Oil Change✓  
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## • REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

### The rage is building

I have the sense that many people are yearning for the economy to go back to the way things were a year or two ago, when things were "going great." The main question seems to be: how do we get back there the quickest way possible?

I think that would be a big mistake. The last thing in the world we want to do is go back. That so-called prosperity was a huge delusional fantasy world, an empty bubble just waiting to pop.

Imagine filling your sink with hot water and lots of soap to wash some dishes. The soap creates lots of bubbles and froth on top of the water. Now imagine the phone rings and you don't come back to the sink for 15 minutes (no, the water isn't all over the floor, you turned the faucet off before you left). When you look at the sink it appears as if the water level has "fallen." That's not true at all of course; all that's disappeared is the air that had been whipped into froth. The bubbles popped.

What was the "prosperity" of the last few years built on? The belief that the stock market would go up forever, that housing prices would go up forever, and that we could spend as much as we liked because the value of our assets were rising so fast we could live off the froth. To put it in plain English: insane thinking.

I see this moment as an opportunity *not* to try to get back to some dream-world, but to boldly try some new economic ideas. The old ideas have gotten us into this mess, so what are we doing continuing to listen to the same people who got us here?

Joseph Stiglitz, who won the Nobel Prize in economics in 2001, compared our current stock market crash to the collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989 in an interview given last September and published in The Huffington Post.

Stiglitz said: "In this crisis, we see the most market-oriented institutions in the most market-oriented economy failing and

running to the government for help. Everyone in the world will say now that this is the end of market fundamentalism. In this sense, the fall of Wall Street is for market fundamentalism what the fall of the Berlin Wall was for communism — it tells the world that this way of economic organization turns out not to be sustainable. In the end, everyone says, that model doesn't work. This moment is a marker that the claims of financial market liberalization were bogus.

"The globalization agenda has been closely linked with the market fundamentalists — the ideology of free markets and financial liberalization. The hypocrisy between the way the U.S. Treasury, the IMF and the World Bank handled the Asian crisis of 1997 and the way this is being handled has heightened this intellectual reaction. The Asians now say, 'Wait a minute, you told us to imitate you in the U.S. You are the model.'"

Nouriel Roubini, an economist who has become famous in the last year for being one of the first and most accurate predictors of our current financial meltdown, titled his latest weekly column on Forbes.com "The Anglo-Saxon Model Has Failed."

Roubini writes, "This severe economic and financial crisis is now also leading to a severe backlash against financial globalization, free trade and the free-market economic model. To paraphrase Churchill, capitalist market economies open to trade and financial flows may be the worst economic regime — apart from the alternatives. However, while this crisis does not imply the end of market-economy capitalism, it has shown the failure of a particular model of capitalism. Namely, the laissez-faire, unregulated (or aggressively deregulated), Wild West model of free market capitalism with lack of prudential regulation, supervision of financial markets and proper provision of public goods by governments."

Now we hear people talking about nationalizing the banks, and I have read editorials—in favor of this happening—start off by apologizing about the word "nationalization." The New York Times editorial board said "Americans have a visceral horror of the word nationalization" so they suggested we call it something else to make it palatable. Frank Rich, in his latest New York Times op-ed piece said, "Until he started hedging a little last weekend, the president has pointedly said that nationalizing banks, while fine for Sweden, wouldn't do in America, with its 'different' (i.e., non-socialistic) culture and traditions. But the word nationalization, once mostly whispered by liberal economists, is now even being tossed around by Lindsey Graham and Alan Greenspan. It's a clear in-



Katie Brugger  
k-brugger@hotmail.com

dication that no one has a better idea."

Paul Krugman, in last Monday's column in the New York Times, said many people think nationalization is "un-American." He assured his readers that in fact it was as "American as apple pie." He continued, "But what we have now isn't private enterprise, it's lemon socialism: banks get the upside but

taxpayers bear the risks. What we want is a system in which banks own the downs as well as the ups. And the road to that system runs through nationalization."

In this country we have been indoctrinated into the belief that socialism is some terrifying foreign system that would destroy the fabric of American life. The joke (not very funny) is that we already have socialism in this country.

Just for starters, as Mr. Krugman pointed out: we have socialism for large financial institutions. These banks and investment houses can rake in huge profits when things are going well, but when they get in trouble they are "too big to fail" and the dupe, I mean the taxpayer, comes in to bail them out. This system is called "privatized profit and socialized risk." These financiers are only capitalists when they're making profits. A true capitalist would welcome recessions because they clear out the weak and sickly companies.

Two of the most popular government programs, Social Security and Medicare, are socialist programs. And the public support for these socialistic programs is so strong that it has been called the "Third Rail" in politics — so dangerously charged it instantly kills anyone who touches it.

I have long thought that conservatives should be in debt to FDR for his New Deal programs because they forestalled a possible revolution in this country. There's a lot of rage building up across the nation and across the political spectrum and the politicians would be wise (I think) to take note.

Speaking of FDR and the New Deal, I've got a thought for all those conservatives upset about Obama's stimulus package. Let's grant the current conservative talking point that the New Deal didn't end the Depression, World War II did. Here's the thought: What was WWII but one huge stimulus package? Full employment was created through the draft — even women worked (at a time when very few women worked outside the home) — and there was lots of government spending on munitions, uniforms, food for troops, etc. The conclusion? FDR just didn't think big enough in the New Deal.

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

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# • HIS & HERS •

## Offending the Islamofascists

by John Armor

It was just a minor story on recently about a Dutch politician being denied entry to Britain at a London airport. You might well have missed it. But it was an extremely important event for its broader meaning.

Geert Wilders, a member of the Netherlands parliament, was invited to Britain by a member of the House of Lords. The invitation asked Wilders to show his 17-minute film "Fitna," which he made last year. Fitna juxtaposes quotes from the Koran with images of Islamofascists attacking and murdering various non-Muslims.

Last year there were riots around the world by Muslims against this "anti-Islamic" film. None of the protesters claimed that the quotes from the Koran were inaccurate nor that the murders and assaults depicted were in any way inaccurate.

The day before Wilders was to fly to London, British Home Secretary Jacqui Smith told Wilders not to come because "his opinions would threaten security." Wilders made the trip anyway, and was arrested at the airport in London and put on another flight back to Amsterdam. While he was on the ground in London, he condemned Britain for stopping him. He called the British government "the biggest bunch of cowards in Europe."

Why should we care about what seems to be a minor dust-em-up at a London airport? It is because all Western governments are in various forms of retreat from the truth about the Islamofascists, because the murderers themselves and their millions of Muslim enablers will burn cars and buildings, attack police and civilians in return for anyone speaking the truth about them.

Two recent examples of such retreats from the truth to appease the friends of the murderers happened in the UN, and in the US. The UN has just taken under consideration a speech code which would define as "anti-Islamic" any criticism of Muslims or Muslim governments. The Nazis and the Communists certainly would have preferred such a resolution respectively in the League of Nations, or the UN. But neither the Nazis nor the Communists had the high number of corrupt governments to vote in their favor, as the Muslims do today.

The other example of retreat from the truth happened in the US last week when President Obama spoke to the national



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

prayer breakfast. He claimed this in that lightly covered speech: "But no matter what we choose to believe, let us remember that there is no religion whose central tenet is hate. There is no God who condones taking the life of an innocent human being. This much we know."

Well, any one who "knows" that "fact" is a brass-plated, geopolitical moron. If you go back far

enough in history, all of the world's major religions have at some time supported the murder of thousands of men, women and children who were of different backgrounds. And all of those religions have, at those times, claimed that their respective gods were in favor of those slaughters.

Most of the world's major religions have become more civilized as the centuries have passed. All except Islam, which is stuck in 7th century, and still justifies the murder of non-believers.

None of us should pretend that the truth is not true, and pretend that the political and religious leaders of Islam are "just like us (sorta)." We are facing millions of mass murderers, and hundreds of millions of supporters and enablers of those murderers. Pretending that they are not there, and do not intend what they repeatedly say and write in public, will solve nothing. It will cause more of us to be murdered.

It is wrong to call the Islamofascists animals, because they are much worse than that. Animals kill to eat, and occasionally kill rivals during mating season. They do not kill at random and in large numbers.

It is right to call the Islamofascists "beardless cowards." (Look up a history of Islamic insults to know what that means.) It is right to call the Islamofascists rabid dogs. And is the proper way to deal with them is like rabid dogs. Find and kill them as efficiently as possible to prevent more harm to civilized nations, and to civilized people who live in uncivilized nations.

To any Muslims who take offense at that, I say, your complaints are rejected. Get back to me when you become competent human beings, if you are capable of that.

• About the Author: John Armor practiced law in the Supreme Court for 33 years. He now lives on the Eastern Continental Divide in the Blue Ridge of North Carolina. John\_Armor@aya.yale.edu

## ... TIDBITS continued from page 5

time employee for IT and web-site support services not to exceed \$20 a hour for 16-24 hours per week.

Up until now, Matt Shuler, GIS Technician has been doing double-duty seeing to the town's IT needs and his GIS duties. The hiring of a part-time person will enable Shuler to do the job he was hired to do.

Commissioners also agreed to hire Jane Capman to serve a recording secretary for Town Board meetings for \$75 per meeting. She is also the town's Zoning Board of Adjustment recording secretary and is Town Attorney Bill Coward's secretary. He was at the meeting on Feb. 11 and said he didn't see a conflict of interest, in fact, thought her presence could keep him abreast of Town Board meetings when he's not present.

Fatland said there are sufficient funds in the general fund to finance these two positions.

### New Software

The board also agreed to spend \$66,400 to change the town's financial and governance software to the CSI system, a Spartanburg, SC company also used by the towns of Franklin and Brevard.

"Our current system doesn't have the ability to upgrade to current technology nor is the support available," said Fatland. "This company comes highly recommended and we can be integrated and up and running by the start of the new fiscal year on July 1 and it will retain 'history' from our current system."

Fatland said town staff will be traveling to municipalities using the software to see it in use and everyone will be cross-trained to use it.

Fatland said there is \$50,000 in the current General Fund and the company has agreed to bill the rest after July 1 so it can be reflected in the 2009-2010 budget.

### Parrish Plat

The approval of a preliminary and final plat by Linda Parrish for property off the Glen

• See TIDBITS page 19

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I believe that those of us who are privileged to have the opportunity to have their thoughts read by others have a responsibility to occasionally try to deflect reality and put things on a relatively lighter note. It is Friday morning. I have searched the news and examined my mind to find some element of good news since I submitted my last column and I am coming up empty.

Many who are reading this column weren't around when Jimmy Carter took a crack at ruining our country.

Unfortunately, I remember well the feeling I had every morning when I woke up to the reality of the state of America.

# • CONSERVATIVE POV •

## Are we having a good time yet?

There was a thing called "the Misery Index" that measured the sense of futility felt by the man on the street. As Carter's administration ground on, the index went higher and higher. I never wanted to feel that way again.

The best thing that could be said about Carter's fiasco was that it took a little while for him to do his damage. I

don't think people realized how bad things were and were going to be until well into his administration. The economy went in the crapper, our status in the world was at a low point and the Misery Index prospered.

The difference between Carter and Obama is Obama started digging a hole the moment he acquired power and is feverishly digging deeper and deeper. Every day he jets to a new opportunity to talk down the economy and remind us that a catastrophe is imminent. Every newscast tells us that Iran has enough uranium to produce a bomb. North Korea tests a long-range missile. Not his fault but his responsibility. He wanted it, he's got it.

How did we get in this shape? How is it possible that the voters at one time or another have elected Obama, Biden, Pelosi and Reid who ended up running our country? Not trying to be disrespectful or anything, but I swear in a week I could interview the readers of this paper and find people more qualified to lead us than the boobs in power.

I remember like it was yesterday taking a bunch of people I worked with out to lunch. One of the folks was a young lady, a capable employee and a good person, who had recently attained voting age. It was campaign time and the subject of conversation turned to the coming election. She allowed that she was going to vote for Carter "because he deserves a chance." WHAT? We saw how that mentality worked out.

Personally, as I have explained in the past, when occurrences defy logic or any reasonable explanation, I attribute them to the supernatural. In my mind, what isn't natural is supernatural in one way or another. How is it possible that in a country where students pay \$40,000 a year to obtain the best education available, we produce and elect leaders that have put us in the mess we're in?

Well, for openers, common sense 101 isn't in the curriculum of Ivy League and other top-tier schools. Nor, evidently, are honesty, ethics and morality. Where did these qualities go? My guess is that when the kids left home for college, they still had some inkling of good vs. bad, right vs. wrong, up vs. down. The teachings of Saul Alinski, Al Gore and other deranged souls have cleansed young minds of rational thought.

Over two or three generations, God's influence on society has gradually been

replaced by man's influence. How's that working out, folks? So, throw God out of school, and unGod will and has filled the void. It's physics, my friend. That worked so well, we are in the process of throwing God out of the public square.

The result? Obama, Biden, Pelosi

and Reid, not to mention Barney Frank, Chris Dodd, Eric Holder, Tim Geithner, etc.

I'm not saying these people are the collective anti-Christ. I am saying that we are being governed by people who forgot, or never knew, the concept of public service, the void of which is filled with self-service. Again we raise the question;

how did these people attain public office? Those charged with the

responsibility of voting for their leaders evidentially had more pressing issues at the time preventing them from giving serious thought to the results of their choices.

Undereducated, misdirected, caught up in the emotion of the moment? I don't know. I do know that God still rules and sometimes He punishes us, takes away our toys and puts us on our knees? Not yet? We'll see.

## ... TESTING from page 1

school for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to set a benchmark from which to judge later in the spring when the same students will be tested again to judge progress.

In addition, reading and math are considered the two hardest subjects and typically a student will do well in one or the other but not both. "It's a very well-rounded student who can do that," said Davis.

Finally, Davis said it's important to note that second-graders aren't prepared for testing. Teachers are basically trying to get them ready for the third-grade, not teaching them to take tests, "So all this is very new to them."

For reading there were four levels of proficiency.

Of the 334 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students in Macon County, 53.29% read at Level 1, 26.05% read at Level 2, 15.97% read at Level 3 and 4.79% read at Level 4.

Of the 32 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at Highlands School, 59.38% read at Level 1, 21.88% read at Level 2, 15.63% read at Level 3 and none read at Level 4.

For math there were also four levels of proficiency.

Of the 334 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in Macon County, 9.28% were at Level 1, 38.92% were at Level 2, 44.01% were at Level 3 and 7.78% tested at Level 4.

Of the 32 Highlands School students, 6.25% tested at Level 1, 43.75% tested at Level 2, 46.88% tested at Level 3 and 3.13% tested at Level 4.

Likewise, the End-of-Course tests were

• See TESTING page 9



**Don Swanson**  
Feedback is encouraged. Email [swansonson@dnet.net](mailto:swansonson@dnet.net)

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## ... TESTING from page 8

administered to 10<sup>th</sup>-grade students the Fall of 2008 in algebra 1 & 2, biology, chemistry, civics & economics, English 1, geometry, physical science, physics and U.S. history.

In Spring 2009, the exact same tests will be given to the group of students who take those courses this semester. Then the scores will be combined to indicate the overall scores in each school in the Macon County system.

Except for U.S. History, Highlands students scored significantly higher than Macon County as a whole. Some courses aren't offered to 10<sup>th</sup> grade students in Highlands.

Algebra I, 94.4%, algebra 2, 80%, biology, 92.3%, chemistry, 100%, civics & economics, 91.7%, physical science, 100% and U.S. history, 58.3%. English 1, geometry and physics weren't tested at Highlands School.

Administrators and teachers continue to be frustrated with the state's targets and testing requirements because the state raises the bar while changing the tests.

"Basically, the state raises the bar and changes tests because when students do too well, the state figures the tests are probably too easy so the bar is raised," said Davis.

The targets for reading in 2007-08 were originally planned to be 84.4% for grades 3-8 and 56.9% for grade 10. However, these percentages changed due to the new test additions administered in 2007-08.

"When cut scores were changed, North Carolina changed the target goals to reflect NC's performance on the NAEP test," said Brigman. "This action caused the targets to be lower at the same time the test was made more difficult."

NC's state reading target changed from 84.4% to 43.2% in 2007-08 for grades 3-8 and 56.9% to 38.5% in grade 10.

In 2010-2011, the target will go up again to 71.6% in reading for grades 3-8 and 69.3% for grade 10.

In addition, the NC State Board of Education raised standards for Algebra I and English I in 2007, raised mathematics standards for grades 3-8 in 2006, and raised reading standards for grades 3-8 in 2008.

Target goals were also raised for grades 3-8 in mathematics for 2008 (from 65.8 in 2007 to 77.2) meaning a greater percentage of students must pass the state tests for the school to make Annual Yearly Progress.

According to the NC Public Schools website, higher target goals are set according to regulations supporting the federal expectation that all students achieve grade-level or higher standards by 2014.

Davis also announced that the 4-year cohort for graduation in North Carolina is now 70.3% and 77% for Macon County.

### Out-of-State Tuition

After suggestions from board member Frieda Bennett, the board is further amending its out-of-state tuition policy possibly to waive tuition to reflect hardships for families in the Highlands School district due to "geographic isolation."

She said the distance and terrain parents have to travel to get to school need to be considered as it is in other mountainous school districts like in Watauga County.

"We need to take into consideration the time it takes these families to get to school and the fact that Highlands is closer," she said.

The amendment will be discussed again at the March 23 school board meeting at Highlands School.

### Highlands School construction

Superintendent Brigman requested the board to OK \$90,000 to be allocated for construction projects at Highlands School.

The funds will be used for design & development, and construction bidding & administration for three restrooms – one in the lobby, elementary wing and an auxiliary facility for the new soccer field; a new entrance canopy and drive in the front of the school, and new kitchen lighting and sidewalk lighting.

– Kim Lewicki

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(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

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

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

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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

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

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290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore

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

Evening Worship – 6 p.m.

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

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## Agencies seek climbers support as raptor marks 10 years off endangered species list

Ten years ago the peregrine falcon, the world's fastest bird, was removed from the threatened and endangered species list and wildlife biologists look to rock climbers as a key part of the bird's continued success in Western North Carolina.

Though it ranges across much of North America, the peregrine falcon is not common and in North Carolina it nests in the western part of the state, atop the high, broad cliffs often used by rock climbers.

"The peregrine falcon is an endangered species success story," remarked

Chris Kelly, a biologist with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. "Key to that success has been the willingness of rock climbers to make concessions for the birds and we hope area rock climbers will continue to be a part of the success."

Seven of the 13 known nesting sites in Western North Carolina are on National Forests, and each year during the breeding season, the USDA Forest Service restricts access to these areas, which are often popular with rock climbers. Biologists implore climbers to heed the closure signs. Adult birds may abandon a nest if molested while older nestlings are especially sensitive to disturbance and may bolt off a ledge before they can fly if approached by a climber. This makes late spring, when visitation at the cliffs tends to increase, an especially critical time for nestlings.

"We understand the sacrifice made by the rock climbers for the birds," explained Sandy Burnet with the USDA Forest Service. "We appreciate that sacrifice

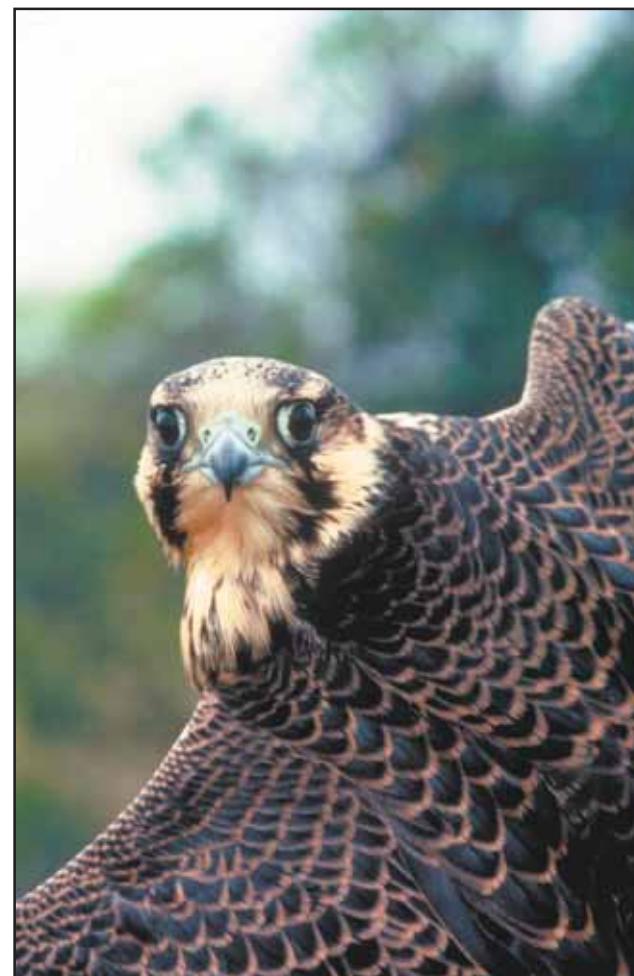
and hope they know they're contributing to the peregrine's success — that their contribution helps keep this bird from returning to the endangered species list."

The 2009 closures will run from Jan. 15 to Aug. 15. If falcons aren't using a site or nesting finishes earlier than August 15, the site may be opened to the public. Likewise, if the falcons chose a nest site outside the existing closed area, the new area may be closed. Areas currently closed include:

The peregrine is a crow-sized raptor that nests on tall cliffs, or even urban skyscrapers. It feeds on other birds and has been known to reach speeds up to 200 miles per hour diving after prey. Its numbers declined sharply after World War II due to the widespread use of DDT and other organochlorine pesticides. In 1970 the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service placed the falcon on the endangered species list under the Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1969, the precursor to the current Endangered Species Act.

In 1975 North American peregrine numbers reached an all time low of 324 nesting pairs. The banning of DDT in the United States in 1973 laid the foundation for peregrine recovery which included the captive breeding and subsequent release of more than 6000 birds in the U.S and Canada between 1974 and 1999, including 92 in western North Carolina. When it was removed from the list of threatened and endangered species in 1999, there were at least 1650 breeding pairs. While steady, peregrine numbers in the state are not large, with only 10-13 pairs seen each year.

Peregrines mate for life and tend to return to the same area each year to mate and nest. They nest once a year, and due to strong territoriality, each cliff site will



Peregrine falcons can be seen when hiking Whiteside Mountain Trail.

support only one pair of birds. If the birds abandon the nest or otherwise fail to nest, a year of reproduction is lost.

### Blueberry Seminar: Starting and maintaining a pick-your-own blueberry farm

The N.C. Cooperative Extension Service will be holding area blueberry workshops for landowners who would like to grow blueberries and ... potentially establish a pick-your-own blueberry farm. Bill Cline NCSU Blueberry Specialist will cover site selection and preparation, blueberry fertility needs, pests and their control, choosing the right cultivars, harvesting, marketing and budget estimates. These area workshops will be held on the following dates.

**March 11** in Robbinsville (Graham County) from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. For more information or to register contact Randy Collins Extension Agriculture Agent at phone # 828 479-7979 or e-mail [Randy\\_Collins@ncsu.edu](mailto:Randy_Collins@ncsu.edu).

**March 12** at the Macon County Extension Center in Franklin from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. For more information or to register contact Alan Durden Extension Agriculture Agent at phone 828-349-2046 or e-mail [Alan\\_Durden@ncsu.edu](mailto:Alan_Durden@ncsu.edu).

These classes will cover all aspects of blueberry production and will include a "hands on" pruning demonstration at a nearby site. For demonstration purposes, we ask that you bring your own pruners and or loppers. Cost for each workshop is \$10 (pay at the door). Lunch will be provided. Please pre-register by Friday March 6.

### By Cynthia Strain

Several Highlands residents who feed wild birds have called me with reports of dead birds in their yards, and in one case a dead rabbit. These appear to be related to a salmonella outbreak among bird populations in the Southeast.

The outbreak seems affect primarily Pine Siskins. They and other finches are particularly susceptible because they flock and feed in large numbers, which makes transmission of diseases easier.

Salmonella is mostly spread through fecal contamination of the birds' water and food. Cats or dogs that eat dead birds can be sickened by the salmonella and possibly spread it to the humans that care for them.

Cleanliness is very important not only in dealing with this outbreak but in preventing future deaths, and it should therefore be a regular part of your bird feeding routine.

Clean your feeders and birdbaths with soapy water and 10% bleach solution. Soak them for 30 minutes, rinsing them very well. Be sure to wear rubber gloves.

Rake and clean up the ground below your feeders (the mess of rotting seeds and hulls harbor many disease-causing germs).

If you have found dead or dying birds in your yard, do not feed birds for 2 weeks or until no more dead birds are being reported in your area. Forcing the birds

## Salmonella outbreak is killing local birds



Pine Siskin

Photo by Cynthia Strain

to disperse and feed in the wild will help stop the spread of Salmonella.

Then move your feeders to a new uncontaminated location. The outbreak should die down with the onset of spring and the return of the pine siskins to their northern habitats.

For more information please check out the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's website at <http://redesign.birds.cornell.edu/>



## • FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

### Grant money for infrastructure on its way



Mayor Don Mullen

Before the town can develop the Kelsey Hutchinson Park on Pine Street we take care of the stormwater problem which we have in that part of town at Fifth and Pine Streets. This area is one of the lowest areas in town and during heavy rains it is flooded. So we applied for a grant from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund and, indeed, we just were informed this past week that the Town of Highlands has been granted an award of \$180,000 in addition to services from Crystal Stream Technologies and McGill Engineering Associates saving us another \$40,000. Engineers have devised an innovative method of handling this water runoff problem which will be implemented in this area.

Installing these stormwater improvement projects at the Kelsey Hutchinson Park will provide the Town of Highlands the opportunity to promote public awareness to stormwater runoff quality and the benefits of low impact design concepts. If this is successful, Kelsey Hutchinson Park can be used as a model to help guide other mountain communities toward sustainable urban development through the use of innovative stormwater technologies. We are extremely grateful to McGill Associates, their President Joel McGill and engineer J.P. Johns for making all this happen.

Thursday of last week several of us went to a workshop in Asheville organized by McGill Associates and the Southwestern Commission to obtain the latest information on the federal government's economic stimulus package. Congressman Heath Shuler spoke and state and federal officials who will administer grants and loans through this new legislation just signed last week by President Obama was discussed. The Town of Highlands has applied for four separate grants and we were encouraged that we have a good chance of obtaining funds for our water and sewer systems along with several other smaller projects in which federal money is now available.

It is good to see that the ABC board has finalized negotiations with the Highlands Plaza and will soon be moving out of their Oak Street facility. They will have a larger area with a much better location adjacent to Bryson's Food Store at the Highlands Plaza. This will free up the current ABC facility to

become a new police station once renovations of this building are accomplished. We will be obtaining architectural expertise to plan the new police facility in that building which was built originally as an ABC Store in 1977. Our police force deserves better offices and facilities than they have currently and we are looking to get them moved sometime this year.

At the beginning of April the Presbyterian Church will have a new minister and I will be relieved of my duties of preaching weekly although I will remain Parish Associate. Rev. Dr. Lee Bowman is a highly qualified minister whose present church is the First Presbyterian Church in Lexington, KY, a

church of 800 members. She is also on the board of directors of the Columbia Theological Seminary near Atlanta and is chairman of their search committee for a new president. The current president of the seminary highly recommended Lee to the church. The Pastor Nominating Committee reviewed over 150 applications in making this recommendation to the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church. Their recommendation of Lee Bowman was overwhelmingly approved. The church is pleased to have such an outstanding person coming as the pastor and we all look forward to welcoming Lee Bowman to our town.



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☐ Volley Ball Court  
☐ Ping Pong  
☐ Foosball  
☐ Pool Table  
☐ Skating area (roller blade, in-line)  
☐ Climbing Wall  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

Highlands' Newspaper

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## USFS backing heritage project linking Highlands and Walhalla

Within the next two years, the Oconee Heritage Center (OHC) hopes to have a new venue where Oconee residents and visitors can learn about Appalachian heritage and culture. The OHC has submitted a proposal to the USDA Forest Service to use the historic Russell Farm site on Highway 28 as a living-history farmstead.

"The vision is to have a working farm in the mountains where patrons will learn about life in this region during the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries," said Nick Gambrell, director and curator of the OHC. "Since opening in 2004, the Oconee Heritage Center has been working towards this goal by collecting historic structures, farm equipment and searching for a site to house this idea."

Submitting a proposal to the Forest Service was an idea that grew out of a conversation between Gambrell and Andrew Pickens District Ranger Mike Crane.

"In the fall, Nick and I went up to the Russell site to gather some materials for our new Forest Service exhibit at the OHC when he started talking about his goals for a southern Appalachian farmstead," said Crane. "The more he talked, the more it made sense for the Forest Service to consider other ways for us to work together."

The Russell Farm, which lies on National Forest lands alongside the Wild and Scenic Chattooga River, still contains nine buildings that were once part of a large farm originally comprised of several hundred acres. The main house was destroyed by fire in 1988 along with two other out buildings.

"If approved, the Russell site will serve as an excellent location for this project because of its authenticity," said Gambrell.

The Forest Service is now reviewing a draft proposal submitted by the OHC which includes the conservation of the remaining buildings of the Russell Farm, installation of OHC-collected buildings currently in storage, conservation of the old road between Walhalla and Highlands and interpreting all eras of occupants as well as the role of the



Valley along the Walhalla Road where the project will be located.

Forest Service in the area.

The proposal includes an on-site tenant and two separate farms — the Russell Farm and a representation of a typical Southern Appalachian Farmstead in an adjacent location. Additionally, the project would include an area for small crops and livestock in nearby fields.

The overarching project approach is respect for and interpretation of the historic landscape of the Russell Farm by rehabilitating the original fields, the historic stagecoach road between Highlands and Walhalla, conserving the remaining structures of the farm, and sensitively incorporating additional historic structures onto the site.

The Russell Farm served for many years as the "Midway House" between Walhalla, S.C. and Highlands, N.C. Because the railroad ended in Walhalla, travelers to areas such as Highlands had to continue their journey into the mountains by stage coach. A journey to Highlands from Walhalla was a long, two-day ride. Thus, the Russell House served as a boarding house along this road for that overnight stay. It is reported that as many as 80 visitors stayed at the house at one time while waiting to cross a swollen Chattooga River. Despite the loss of the main house, the Russell Farm is still listed in the National Register of Historic Places in America.

Buildings collected by the OHC include a dogtrot cabin from Elizabethtown, KY, a blacksmith shop from Westminster, a one-room cabin from Georgia, the millworks from the Burns Mill in West Union, a Smokehouse from Pickett Post and many more.

Currently, the OHC is preparing a site plan with the assistance of the Oconee County Planning Department and Clemson's University's Planning and Landscape Architecture Department. Assistant Professor Cari Goetcheus, a historical landscape architect, is working with landscape architecture student Jonathan Fritz to accommodate the vision of the OHC at the Russell site.

If the proposal and site plan are accepted by the Forest Service, an environmental analysis, including public input, could be conducted as early as spring 2009.



One of the original Russel Farm barns still on the property.



Another one of the remaining structures on the farm.

## Macon County's 'Heritage Farm' set for Siler Road

Recently, the Macon County Commissioners gave permission for the Folk Heritage Association to use bottom land along the river behind county Siler Road property to house its "Living Heritage Village and Farm." Since Heritage Farms are considered a major tourist attraction nationwide, commissioners believe it was a good move.

At the Feb. 9, 2009 commission meeting, the board agreed to fund a portion of a \$25,000 feasibility study – a prerequisite before the organization can go after subsequent grant funding.

Commissioners agreed to the \$5,000 requested, contingent upon the Franklin TDC agreeing with the project and its potential as a viable and sustainable tourist attraction for the Franklin area of Macon County.

For the past six years, the Folk Heritage Assn., has been working on the project that would protect, preserve and share the folk heritage of Macon County and the Southern Appalachian Mountains. As a southern gateway to Western North Carolina, Franklin, has the potential to attract and keep visitors rather than just serving as a pit stop or "road to elsewhere" say proponents.

Commissioners are excited about the Heritage Farm which when combined with other attractions in the vicinity of Siler Road including the new performing arts center at the Fun Factory will offer visitors a reason to book hotel rooms and stay a while.

The Folk Heritage Assn. is seeking funding through the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area (BRNHA) established by Congress in November 2003. It is committed to protecting and promoting the historic, cultural and natural assets of the region and encourages partnerships with local, state and federal governments and nonprofit and private sectors to shape the long-term future of communities.

To get totally behind the project, BRNHA has identified five areas vital to the Macon County heritage story – music, crafts, natural heritage, historic sites and Cherokee heritage.

To guarantee funding, a good location is necessary – which the Folk Heritage Assn. feels it has found off Siler Road – but it also has to make the Franklin Heritage Village "different" from other existing heritage attractions.

The association believes it can hit every mark to secure funding and attract and keep visitors.

The site will be totally interactive; will utilize the latest "green" technology while illustrating that many "new" ways to be green are often returning to the "old" ways; a large welcome center/display area suitable for gatherings and family functions; the use of technology to involve visitors while creating the interest in exploring the reconstruction of the village and farm; and perhaps foremost, capitalize on the availability of outstanding quilts from the area which will draw a large audience.

In fact, 1980 Governor Jim Hunt signed a proclamation declaring Franklin the "Quilting Capitol of the World" and currently, the group has access to four one-of-a-kind quilts.

The original "World's Largest Quilt – 18 feet by 21 feet; The Cabarrus Quilt which is the world's largest quilted wall tapestry at 10 feet by 33 feet; the "Celebrate America Quilt" which was designed after 9/11 and contains the autographs of many famous people; and the World's Fair Quilt, designed and made for the president of the 1982 World's Fair, S.H. "Bo" Boberts, which was presented to him by Governor Jim Hunt on the North Carolina Day at the fair.

The Wall Street Journal reported on April 12, 2008, that

• See HERITAGE page 23



## • COACH'S CORNER •

### The last game

**M**onday night was an important life in the night of three Highlands High School seniors, as they wore a Highlander uniform for the last time. While the defeat at the hands of Cherokee was a bitter ending for all 15 members of the Highlander basketball team, for these three seniors, it is an especially difficult moment.

While many people may appreciate the face value of high school athletics — the camaraderie, the bus rides, the wins and the losses — very few people can attest to the tremendous amount of work put in by these students, and the investment that they make when they sign on to be a part of the Highlander basketball program.

In addition to their regular studies, these players do an extraordinary amount of work both individually and as a team to be successful, and it's hard to understand how bittersweet those final moments can be unless you have experienced it personally.

The average four-year HHS basketball player will participate in over 300 practices in their high school career. They will play in four summer leagues, and attend more than 60 summer practices — all this in addition to the more than 100 games that they will dress for in their career.

Almost every Highlander athlete, regardless of sport, will experience despair, frustration and anger during their career. These "bad" emotions come in addition to the joy, determination and success that most high school players experience both personally and with their teammates during their high school career.

The moments after the last game are not those of reflection or nostalgia, they are moments of visceral pain and frustration, over more than simply the loss of a game, but the loss of the experience.

It's the finality of it all that hurts the most in those ending moments. The mind races



**Ryan Potts**  
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

through the last thoughts of what might have been, the last team prayer, cleaning out your locker for the final time, and there is true sorrow...but soon that sorrow gives way to fonder memories of bright moments —

games, funny stories, and the friends that you went to battle with more than 100 times throughout the years.

It has been more than 10 years since my last game, and while the details of the games have gotten fuzzier over the years, the memories have become clearer. Whether it is the locker room stories, the long bus rides, the friendships formed or the indelible memories of certain moments, they still remain in my mind as if they happened yesterday.

Folks, this is one of the most important gifts that high school athletics can bring to our students — an opportunity to make memories that can last a lifetime.

It is my hope that soon these three seniors will look down the line at the things that they have accomplished and enjoy those happy memories that occurred during their years wearing the Blue and Gold.

Here's to you — Ezra, Andrew and Michael — you will be missed on the court next year, but we will always be proud to call you Highlanders.

### **Macon County Schools surveys needed by Feb. 27**

#### **Parent Survey:**

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB228RN6MDUBP>

#### **Staff Survey:**

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB228RZWMLZVZ>

#### **Student Survey:**

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB228RZX9M2A8>

#### **Community Survey:**

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB228RZXSM2LL>

#### **School Name Survey:**

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB228RX4GKAUJ>

## • HS SPORTS •

### Impressive finale all the way around

**By Ryan Potts**

The end of the season was upon us last Thursday as both Highlander basketball teams vied for a Little Smoky Mountain Tournament Championship at Nantahala High School.

The Lady Highlanders faced top-10 ranked Hiwassee Dam in the championship, having been blown out twice by the Lady Eagles earlier in the season.

The Lady Highlanders used multiple defenses to keep the Eagles off balance, and the lead changed hands throughout the game. The outcome looked bleak for the Lady Highlanders late in the fourth quarter, as three crucial fourth quarter threes by Amber Boring had given the Lady Eagles a 4-point lead with only 3 seconds to play. However, the Lady Highlanders had one more bullet in their holster so to speak, as Emily Munger drained a long 3 and the Lady Highlanders stopped the clock with their final timeout and only 1.2 seconds on the clock.

After a quick foul on Boring, the Lady Eagle senior hit two clutch 3-pointers to give Hiwassee Dam a 3-point lead...Highlands needed a miracle, and they received one in the form of Munger's 65-foot heave

that hit nothing but the bottom of the net and forced overtime.

Unfortunately, for the Lady Highlanders, they ran out of miracles in the extra session, with Hiwassee Dam outscoring them 11-4 and coming away with a 57-50 victory.

The Boys Championship saw the Highlanders facing similar circumstances as the girls-facing a top-10 opponent for the third time this

season.

The Highlanders responded early, riding hot shooting from Michael Shearl to a 12-point 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter lead. A late run by the Hawks gave them a 1-point lead at the half, and it looked as if there would be another barn burner after the girls' thriller.

Unfortunately, the packed house in Nantahala and the aggres-

• See FINALE page 23

### Ezra scores his 1,000th point



At Tuesday night's home game, senior Ezra Herz was honored for scoring his 1,000th point at the boys' game played at Nantahala last week. With Herz are his coaches Ryan Potts and Butch Smart.

Photo by Stephanie McCall

### Girls win first round of state playoffs



Highlands girls beat Hendersonville at home in Highlands Tuesday night, winning the first round of the state playoffs. The second round will be played Thursday, Feb. 26 at Robbinsville.

Photo by Stephanie McCall



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## • ANOTHER POV •

### Not in where anymore?

A communist recently wrote, "You're not in Nebraska anymore, Barack," and he's right our President is not. The November election for President brought excitement and in some cases jubilation to America. The expectation was that there was a change in the wind, a new way of doing business in Washington and reaffirmation that the only impediments to success are talent and will, not color and sex, and that an era of "good old boy" politics would soon be over.

No we're not in Nebraska anymore and some change dies hard. President Obama tried to open up to the Republican Party on the Stimulus Bill by physically going to them. The President went to their house and asked for their support and in return what did he get on that initial vote? He got a straight party vote, all Democrats voting yes and all Republicans voting no. It's hard to believe that not one Republican felt the need to support the President; not one Republican had the courage to break from the party and support the President. I find it equally interesting that not one Democrat voted against it either. I guess its politics as usual in Washington — party politics.

No we're not in Nebraska anymore and just when you thought there was hope that politicians could change people like Richard Shelby speaks out. During a period of significant financial turmoil in this country, the Senator from Alabama chose the following as his most important issue when he recently said about President Obama, "...his father was Kenyan and they said he (Obama) was born in Hawaii... You have to be born in America to be President." Perhaps Senator Shelby went to the same schools as Governor Palin. Africa is a continent and Hawaii is a state.

Judd Gregg, Republican Senator of New Hampshire, withdrew his name from nomination for the post of Commerce Secretary because "I began to wonder if I could be an effective team player." He accepts the nomination then suddenly has a revelation that he's not a team player—and he expects people to believe that. It may have been a mystery to him but it took me about a nanosecond to come to my conclusion — he is a team player, and his team is not the American team but his party team and that is more than a disappointment. No we're not in Nebraska anymore.

On the positive side of change, when asked if his own party had national leaders Republican Governor Charlie Crist said, "I think there is a national leader, his name is President Obama. The people elected him. And I'm willing to give him a good shot and try to help make this work. We're in a tough time, as we talked about before. I think we do need to be bipartisan. We need to be, in fact, nonpartisan. We're all Americans. Our country is at a dire point and we need to do everything we can to work together to get America through this." I appreciate he is a leading candidate for the Republican nomination in 2012 and this may



**Matthew G. Eberz**  
Feedback is encouraged  
Email: [matt@matteberz.com](mailto:matt@matteberz.com)

have been "politic speak" but it is encouraging none the less.

Back on the other side of positive there is Rush Limbaugh who said about the stimulus package, "I hope Obama fails." There are many people out there in the political world and in our little Highlands community that would rather see a nation fail or a town fail than to admit they were wrong. For them it's not about doing the right thing, its getting credit for doing my thing. They remind me of the basketball star that would rather score 30 points and lose the game then score five points and have their team win. Limbaugh is on the team of ultra conservative panic mongers who pontificate that there is only one way to live in America-the Limbaugh way. And don't even get me started on Ann Coulter.

A communist recently wrote, "You're not in Nebraska anymore, Barack," and he's right our President is not. But, I think the writer meant to parody the Wizard of Oz and say, "You're not in Kansas anymore, Barack." In the 1939 film Wizard of Oz, the movie starts off, in stark back and white, with Dorothy and her dog trying to escape from the evil Elmiria Gulch. During her escape attempt, Dorothy gets caught in a tornado, hits her head and is then transported Over the Rainbow where she lands in a magical land of Munchkins where the world is full of color, happiness and song — and not to forget the Evil Witch of the East, whom Dorothy killed when her house landed on her, for which the Munchkins were then really happy. Dorothy then journeys to the wonderful land of Oz to see its wizard so he can tell her how to find her way home. It is a magical tale of friendship and courage that both warms the heart and entertains us. The lion found courage, the scarecrow found a brain and the tin man found a heart, but that was just a movie and this is life.

Some people say that, "We're not in Kansas anymore," has come to mean that things are not the way things were, you're out of your element, and you're about to be smacked in the face with reality and fail. They believe as Dorothy said, "There's no place like home," so click your heels three times and go there. But I have another point of view on that; no we're not in Kansas anymore and thank God for that. I believe that government, like our homes, needs a little fixing up from time to time, and this is that time. This will be a difficult journey from where we are now to where we want to be, and people can't click their heels three times and just go home, our politicians, our leaders, all of us must work together to do it. Our country needs leadership and people working together to find the right path to fix our economy, and so does our little town. I hope we all find the heart, the brain and the courage to take us there.

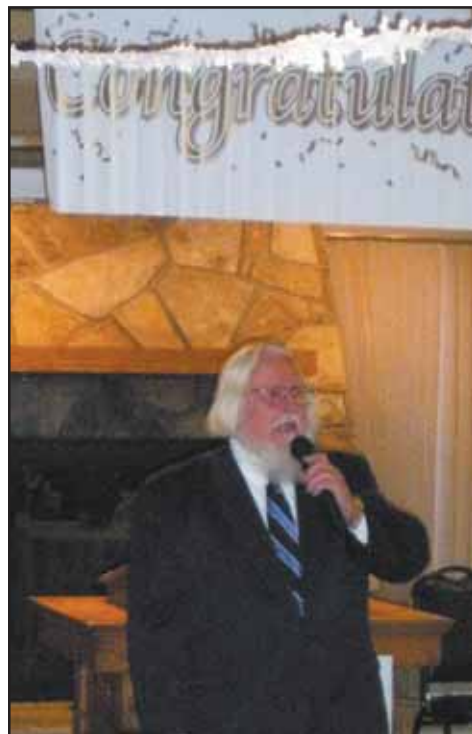
In two weeks I'll have Another Point Of View.



## ... RETIRES continued from page 1



edging the years Betz has put in for the town, and the outstanding job he's done. Previous Mayor Buck Trott also commended Betz noting no job was beneath him – not even seeing to the repair and cleanup



Ex-mayor Buck Trott and Town Engineer Lamar Nix spoke fondly of Richard and his years of service.



Co-workers past and present gathered to wish Betz the best at Friday night's ceremony.

of sewage that twice backed up into Town Hall.

But Town Engineer and Public Works Director Lamar Nix had the most to say, delivering an engaging, heartfelt testimonial to the crowd of 75.

"On Wednesday, Oct. 20, 1982 at the regular meeting of the Highlands Board of Commissioners and Mayor Steve Potts, it was moved by Commission Creswell, seconded by Commissioner Crane and unanimously carried that Richard Betz be employed as Zoning Administrator/Building Inspector effective Jan. 1, 1983. In addition to the duties, Mr. Betz will be assigned additional duties as determined by the board. Thus began Richard's career with the Town of Highlands," said Nix.

"The board was very serious about the 'additional duties as determined by the board.' Richard was later appointed Town planner, watershed administrator, ADA coordinator and the official town tree administrator.

"On Wednesday, Dec. 20, 1994 at the regular meeting, the Board of Commissioners and Mayor John Cleaveland, it was moved by Amy Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Donnie Calloway and unanimously carried to offer the position of Town Administrator to Richard Betz.

"Along with this title came Town clerk, tax collector, budget officer, town secretary, finance officer...plant waterer, light bulb changer, public restroom czar and clock tower adjuster.

"I had started to work only six months earlier with the town in June 1994. I have worked with Richard 5,293 days since and never once have we had an unpleasant exchange.

"Richard has accomplished a lot in 26 years and saw a lot of changes. He has been

instrumental in both zoning and administration of our town government.

In 26 years, Richard has participated in approximately 198 zoning board meetings, 297 planning board meetings, 702 Town Board meetings, distributed 504,000 utility bills, sold 1,845,168,000 gallons of potable water, treated 947,479,000 gallons of wastewater, sold 534,714 kwh of electricity, rebuilt the water treatment plant from 1 million gallons a day to 2 million gallons a day, constructed a new wastewater treatment plant in 1995 and reconstructed it again in 2006 going from .17 million gallons a day to 1.5 million gallons a day. He has also successfully constructed countless water and wastewater projects which have laid the foundation for future generations of Highlanders.

"He has been made interim zoning administrator eight times while being the town administrator and during all this encountered many challenges including hurricanes, flooding in the Town Hall and ice storms.

"Working through these challenges has been tough. But Richard has the most optimistic attitude of anyone, always remaining positive, helping all of us find the solutions, helping to achieve the correct outcome of all problems, challenges and projects.

"Once, Yogi, Mac, Norman and I threatened Richard with the idea that we would join his running club. We were going to get Speedos and cut-off T-shirts that read 'I run with Richard Betz' and show up early at Town Hall and begin stretching beside the road. This didn't bother Richard. He just grinned and said. 'That would be great. Y'all NEED to run with us!'

"That is just an insight into Richard's personality. 'Always find the positive things in every situation, be uplifting to the people around you. Help your fellow man achieve and leave things better than you found them.'

"I can speak for all 34 public works employees when I say, 'Thanks for being a great boss. You have set an example both on the job and off the job by pointing out the positive, by being uplifting, by helping all of us achieve and by making the Town of Highlands an even better place than it already was.

"They say you don't know someone until you have worked with them. After 5,293 days, I feel like I know Richard pretty good, as do the rest of the employees. Enjoy your retirement, you certainly have earned it."

Betz and his wife Martha, who recently retired from Highlands Country Club, will be selling real estate with Country Club Properties, but they do plan to take a few trips – one commemorating their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year.

Photos by Kim Lewicki



Martha and Richard Betz, now both retired, will celebrate their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year.



## • UPCOMING EVENTS •

### 'American Daughter' opens Feb. 26



The five seasoned actors Sandie Trevathan, Chad Lucas, Carla Gates, Dean Zuch and Virginia Talbot round out cast of 10 in HCP's "American Daughter" opening Thursday, Feb. 26 at the Performing Arts Center.

*An American Daughter* by Wendy Wasserstein opens Thursday, Feb. 26 at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands.

In 1989 Wendy Wasserstein became the first woman playwright to win a Tony; that same year she also collected the Pulitzer Prize and the award for best new play from New York Drama Critics Circle for her play *The Heidi Chronicles*. Her first production was "Uncommon Women and Others," displaying her signature wry, comical style was produced off-Broadway in 1977 with Glenn Close, Jill Eikenberry, and Swoosie Kurtz playing the lead roles, and was later produced for PBS with Meryl Streep in the cast.

Other plays include *The Sisters Rosensweig*, *An American Daughter* and *Third*. Her work continues to be lauded for its comedic merits but Wasserstein's work delves into a deeper issue: the complex politics of independent American women living in a society that values traditional roles and expectations. Wasserstein, who made a place on the American stage for contemporary women and their concerns, explored such issues as love, independence, careers, family relationships, and feminism with wit and affection. Wasserstein's women are portrayed as smart and successful, but also riddled with self-doubt.

The sassy dialogue and farcical situations mask deep, resonant truths about intelligent, independent women. *An American Daughter* was produced on

Broadway in 1997. This topical political satire concerns a brilliant surgeon who has been nominated for the US Surgeon General and through a small misstep in her past that media exploits her nomination is in peril. Sound familiar?

Wasserstein died in 2006 of lymphoma at the age of 55. The night after her death, Broadway's lights were dimmed in her honor.

In the Highlands Cashiers Players production of *An American Daughter*, Carla Gates portrays the nominee, Lyssa Dent Hughes. Chad Lucas plays the part of her husband, a sociology professor at Georgetown University. Dean Zuch is Lyssa's father, Senator Allan Hughes, and Virginia Talbot, his lovely fourth wife. Sandie Trevathan playing the part of the ultimate "spin doctor." These seasoned actors bring an air of sophistication to the stage. Along with the five "new" actors to HCP, there is great synergy in this production. Director Mary Adair Leslie, believes, "Wasserstein's *An American Daughter* has and will continue to cause controversy, and hopefully discussion and conversation over differences of opinion. Theater is an art form and all art should stir emotions, thoughts and again...discussions and conversations."

The HCP box office is open Monday-Friday from 10-4 and Saturdays from 10-2. For tickets and more information, please call 828.526.8084. *An American Daughter* contains adult content and language.

#### On-going Events

- 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

- Open 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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 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.

#### Thursdays, beginning March 5

- Taize worship is coming to Highlands at 7 p.m. at the Lutheran Chapel of the Holy Family, 2152 Dillard Road. There will be 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](mailto:Knytengale@aol.com)

#### Thursday, Feb. 26

- The Macon County Beekeepers' Assn. Annual Beekeeping School takes place at the Cooperative Extension Office, Thomas Heights Rd., Franklin and it's free. Learn all you need to know about beekeeping, 6:30-9:30. Contact Janet Hill, 369-9819 to register or for further information. Or just come!

#### Saturday, Feb. 28

- Car Wash and Yard Sale at the First Citizen's Bank from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All proceeds benefit Highlands School 5th Grade trip to Charleston.

- Benefit for police officer Richard Davis at the Highlands Rec Park from 6-9 p.m. To-go plates start at 5:30 p.m. BBQ plates and desserts for sale. Silent auction and entertainment by the Oliver Rice and Johnny Webb & the JW Band.

- The Macon County Beekeepers' Assn. Annual Beekeeping School takes place at the Cooperative Extension Office, Thomas Heights Rd., Franklin and it's free. Learn all you need to know about beekeeping 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact Janet Hill, 369-9819 to register or for further information. Or just come!

- The Highlands Rotary Club will hold its annual Monte Carlo Night on Saturday beginning at 6 pm at the Highlands Community Building next to the Ball Park. Monte Carlo Night is a combination of Monte Carlo games of skill such as roulette, Black Jack, craps and even Texas Hold'em and a Silent and Live Auction with proceeds going to various local non-profit



## • UPCOMING EVENTS •

organizations. Cost is \$40 per person which includes casino chips, refreshments, hors d'oeuvres and a lot of fun. Tickets increase to \$50 on Feb. 24. Tickets are available at: The Macon Bank; Highlands Recreation Park, Highlands Chamber of Commerce, Basketcase in Highlands and Highlands Decorating Center.

### Sunday, March 1

- The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin, NC welcomes our guest speaker, Dr. Ed Gettys, a member of the Fellowship. Dr. Gettys' topic will be "Humility versus Vanity: how do we View the World?" Service & children's service begin at 11 AM. 85 Sierra Drive, off Lakeside, 1.2 miles from Hardees. All are welcome. For info: 828/524-6777.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2.2 mile hike on the Standing Indian Campground

loop trail, partly along Kimsey Creek with a short steep section of 0.5 miles. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, across from Burger King at 2:00 p.m. Bring water, a snack if you wish; wear study shoes. Drive 30 miles round trip. Visitors and children ten and over are welcome, but no pets please. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations.

### Thursday, March 5

- Democrats! Highlands Democratic Precinct meeting will be held Thursday, March 5 at the Rec Park at 5:30 p.m. Please come and participate in the elections of officers for our precinct and help decide the direction you want to see your local party take for the next year. For more info call 526-3363.

- "Away From Her" (2006), is the story about a couple who after 40 years of marriage find themselves

coping with the institutionalization of the wife because of Alzheimer's disease. Julie Christie and Gordon Pinsent star this film about coping with disease and separation. The movie will air at 3 p.m. It's hosted by Friends of the Albert Carlton - Cashiers Community Library, the winter schedule will continue on the first and third Thursday as matinees.

### Friday, March 6

- South Macon Elementary School Blood Drive (855 Addington Bridge Road, Franklin) 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Please call Sandy Keener at 524-9492 or Kay Ledford 524-7789 for more information.

## Mountains in Bloom garden festival set for July 7-11



Two days of elaborate garden tours are just one part of the 2009 Mountains in Bloom garden festival, which also features a lecture series, flower show, home and garden shop, and Giverny-themed patrons party. The event will be July 7-11. Tickets are available at [www.mountainsinbloom.com](http://www.mountainsinbloom.com). Photo by Rick Demetriou

Tickets are on sale now for the Mountains in Bloom garden festival, the 11<sup>th</sup> annual nature-themed event to raise money for The Bascom visual art center.

This year's event will be July 7-11 in Highlands.

Elaborate gardens, a Giverny-themed patron party, a flower show and a home and garden shop are just a few of the spectacular treats in store for the hundreds of home and garden enthusiasts who attend Mountains in Bloom each year to raise money for the nonprofit art center.

Festival events include the following:

- Garden tours – view expansive mountain vistas with woodland trails, tour elaborate cottage gardens and access the majestic Highlands Falls waterfall

- Lectures – hear presentations by interior designer Lady Henrietta Spencer-Churchill, landscape designer/garden restorer Chip Callaway and Highlands' own Margie Shambaugh.

- Home and garden shop – browse and purchase the best in live plant mate-

rial and unusual and distinctive items for the garden, porch, patio and home

- Flower show – enjoy this year's "Mountain Moments" show, including horticultural, artistic and photography divisions.

- Giverny-themed patron party – sip on cocktails and dine in tents overlooking the formal gardens at Frog Pond Farm, home of Paula and Barry Jones, owners of The Summer House.

- Photography competition and other ongoing demonstrations.

"We have pulled out all the stops, and this year's Mountains in Bloom will be the best garden festival Western North Carolina has ever experienced," said Donna Woods, The Bascom's events director. "Buy your tickets early so you can be sure not to miss it."

Corporate sponsors include The Highlander and The Laurel.

For ticket information, call The Bascom at (828) 526-4949, ext. 6#. Tickets can be purchased online.

## Benefit for Policeman Richard Davis at the Highlands Rec Park February 27

from  
6-9 p.m.

To-go plates start at  
5:30 p.m.

BBQ Pork Plates  
Desserts for sale  
Silent Auction & Entertainment by the Oliver Rice and Johnny Webb & the JW Band

## Ruby Cinema

Hwy. 441, Franklin • 524-2076

### Feb. 27-March 5

**HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU**  
rated PG-13

Friday: (4:30), 7:10, 9:30  
Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:30), 7:10, 9:30  
Mon – Thurs: (4:30), 7:10

**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE**  
rated R

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

**PAUL BLART: MALL COP**  
rated PG  
Friday: (4:15), 7:15, 9:15  
Sat & Sun: (2:15), (4:15), 7:15, 9:15  
Mon – Thurs: (4:15), 7:15

**TAKEN**  
rated PG-13  
Friday: (4:10), 7, 9:10  
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:10), 7, 9:10  
Mon – Thurs: (4:10), 7

# Erosion and Sediment Control in the Mountains

**March 3 — 8:30-4:30**

First United Methodist Church  
66 Harrison Avenue, Franklin, NC

A certificate will be awarded at the end of the workshop which you can use as a "reference" when bidding jobs.

Workshop Fee:

Fee includes lunch, refreshments, and materials.

\$60\* per person  
(No PDHs)  
\$150 for professionals seeking professional development hours (PDHs)

**\*The Macon County Board of Commissioners and Jackson County Board of Commissioners are offering full scholarships to Macon County and Jackson County residents who register and attend the entire workshop.**

Register Online:  
<http://www.ncsu.edu/waterquality/frenchbroad/erosion.html>

Register By Phone:  
Contact Carter Cone at 828-230-2965 and leave your name and phone number.



\$5 for 20 words weekly

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\$2. for each add'l. 10 words

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## HELP WANTED

**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.

**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](http://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](http://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](http://www.hchospital.org).

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

**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.htm](http://www.thomasknob.com/homes.htm) 15/14)

## RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

**2 BED ONE BATH COTTAGE**, fully furnished. Laurel Falls. two minutes from hospital and few minutes from town. Call 787-2423. 3/19

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

**ONE BEDROOM/ONE BATH** partially furnished apartment, 6 miles from Highlands. No smoking/no pets. \$450/mo (negotiable) 828-787-1515

**LEASE HOUSE WITH OPTION AVAILABLE**. Remodeled. Between Highlands and Cashiers. 3 bed, 2 1/2 bath and bonus room. No smoking. \$900 a month. Call 828-371-1609 or 828-743-1108 2/26

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

**HOUSE FOR RENT AND SALE** - 3/2 w/ office, great roommate plan 1600 sft., gated community, Scaly Mt. half way between Highlands and Clayton, access to 17 acre lake and hiking from 424 sq ft porch or watch sun rise from 424 sq. ft. deck. \$1,200/mo plus utilities. Internet and satellite available. No children, pets, or ATVs; house actively being shown for sale during rental. Call Pat 828-243-9646 re rent or Becky 828-526-2475 re sale. pscherrer@mindspring.com

**DOWNTOWN APARTMENT RENT-AL** - 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

**2 BED, 2 BA, COTTAGE** - W/D, 2 miles from town off Cashiers Road. Garage/basement, covered deck. \$925 a month. Call 864-944-1175.

**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.

## VACATION RENTAL

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

**THE LODGE ON MIRROR LAKE** - Fish or canoe from deck. Available weekly, monthly, No min. Call 828-342-2302.

## ITEMS FOR SALE

**WOODBURNING FIREPLACE INSERT** - Strong and sturdy, 30 inches wide, 29 inches deep and 67 inches high. \$175. Call 526-5749.

**CAMPER SHELL** - from Boondocks in Hendersonville. Fits Toyota short bed. White. \$350. Call 828-743-9254.

**HONEY FOR SALE** - Blue Valley honey, perfect amber color, 3/4 lb. bears, \$5 each. work in town. Call Bruce at 526-9021.

**GE PROFILE WHITE COUNTERTOP GAS RANGE WITH DOWNDRAFT**. Like new. \$185 Call 787-2232.

**KOLCRAFT JEEP WAGONEER TANDEM DOUBLE STROLLER**. Used rarely. Basically brand new. \$100 or OBO. Call 526-2536.

**125-GALLON ALL-GLASS AQUARIUM** - over 6 feet in length, was a salt-water shark-only tank. Comes with Ehiem Pro series-2 external canister filter, and optional mahogany base. Will settle for \$500; base, extras and help moving it are optional but free. Call cell 828-342-2809

**DRY, HARDWOOD, FIREWOOD** - Priced to Sell! Call 828-526-4946 or 828-200-0268.

**SMALL EMERALD AND GOLD RING**. Originally \$300 Asking \$175. 828-631-2675 after 5 p.m.

**BABY LOCK SERGER MACHINE** with extra spools of thread. \$200.00 828-631-2675 after 5:00 p.m. Sylva area.

**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

**SIX CEDAR ADIRONDACK CHAIRS** - custom made. \$100 each or all for \$500. Call 526-3824.

**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.

**STONE AVAILABLE** - Assorted. 14 pallets. \$200 per pallet. Call 526-9532

**MARTIN-C-1740 UNVENTED GAS HEATER** - with oxygen depleting sensing system. BTU 40,000. H. 14 24 3/4 W. 25" D. 13". Fan blower-model B35. \$125. Call 526-5640.

**BEAUTIFUL, KNOTTY PINE WOOD ENTERTAINMENT CENTER WITH POCKET DOORS**. Will hold up to a 31" TV. \$100. Call 369-5863.

**ANTIQUE WOODEN ROCKING CHAIR FROM LATE 1800'S**. Fully refinished. \$100. Call 369-5863.

**AVON CAPE COD RED GLASS** - 8 piece place setting. 64 pieces. \$385. Also, accessory pieces available. Call 828-524-3614.

**DESK (LARGE) WITH MATCHING CREDENZA**, oak, leather chair. \$850. Call 743-6869.

**4 BOARD PINE DINING TABLE** - \$300. Early American New England spinning wheel - \$225. 526-2671

**GOLF CLUBS CLASSIC - SET OF** MacGregor Tourney 9 irons (2-9 P.W.) 1980. Persimmon Drivers, new. \$50. Used \$25. Also miscellaneous items cheap. Call 706-746-3046. (Sky Valley).

**MR. HEATER - 75,000 BTU**. Forced Air Heater. Like New. \$110. Call 526-3206.

**TABLE SAW** - 9" with 4" Joiner. All one stand. \$75. Call 526-3206.

**PFALTZGRAFF "HEIRLOOM" DISHES**. Complete service for 8 plus numerous serving pieces, extras and accessories. Too much to list. \$300 Call (828) 631-2675 after 5 p.m. Sylva area.

**JESSICA MCCLINTOCK VICTORIAN STYLE WEDDING DRESS**. Very unique. Size 11/12. \$200. Call (828) 631-2675 after 5 p.m. Sylva area.

**MAN'S FORMAL (MID-LENGTH) WESTERN STYLE BLACK COAT**. Size 46. Worn once. Bought at Stages West in Pigeon Forge. \$150. Call (828) 631-2675 after 5 p.m. Sylva area.

**8 SOLID OAK, LADDERBACK** dining room chairs with woven seats. \$800 for set. Call 526-3048.

**5-PC BEDROOM SET C.1920** Bed/ Chest of Drawers/Vanity-stlye Dresser/ Stool/Mirror. Rosewood inlay. Original brass hardware. Good condition. \$995. 828-200-1160 or highlandsnative@yahoo.com

**CRAFTSMAN 10" RADIAL ARM SAW WITH STAND**. Old but used very



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little. Excellent working condition. \$150. 828/787-2177.

**HEWLETT PACKARD 15" CRT MONITOR** in good working condition with all connection cord included. "FREE." Call Randy at 828-488-2193.

**COLONIAL GLASS** – set of 12 Sherbet Goblets, and dessert plates. \$35. Call 526-4063.

**WATER PURIFYING CHLORINATOR PUMP** with large heavy duty plastic holding tank. Was \$75. Now \$50. Call Randy at 828-488-2193.

**PLASTIC OUTDOOR TABLE:** Hunter green 36"x36" in like new condition. \$10. Call Randy at 828-488-2193.

**TWO ELECTRIC WATER COOLERS** for sale. Approximately 38" tall x 12" square. Put bottled water on top. \$50 each. OBO. Call 526-3262

**FREE BRICK FRONT FOR BUILT-IN FIREPLACE.** W-68", H-52" Call: 828-349-3320

**LENOX SPICE JARS**, full set mint condition, original price \$45 each. Also jewelry call 369-0498. 7-9 p.m.

**GEISHA GIRL NIPPON TEAPOT**, ratan balls handle circa 1891-1921, Creamer/Covered Sugar Set, Tea set/ rice bowls 369-0498 7-9 p.m.

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

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

**MISC. ITEMS** – Various proof coin sets, old 78 LP, Old Walt Disney movies (never opened); Girls' bicycle; Collectible Basketball Cards (never opened). Call 526-9123.

**MASSEY FERGUSON DIESEL DELUXE 35 WITH POWER STEERING.** Completely rebuilt, repainted, new tires. Includes scrape blade, and an 8,000 lbs. tandem axle trailer. Sharp Package! \$6,000. Call (828)526-1684 and leave message.

**ANTIQUE CHERRY DINING TABLE** – drop-leaf. rope carved legs. Seats 4-10 people. \$1,500 obo 828-787-1515

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

## VEHICLES FOR SALE

**1989 MERCEDES 560-SL** – 2-door, hardtop convertible. excellent condition. Only 70,000 miles. Always garaged. Black/gray leather. \$15,000. (770) 827-0450 ,4/29

**1998 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE**, black,

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## NOTICE

All unpaid 2008 taxes on real property will be advertised in the newspapers Friday, March 13, 2009 and Thursday, March 12, 2009  
**To avoid advertisement, taxes must be paid by 5 p.m. on Friday, February 27, 2009.**

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## ... TIDBITS from page 7

Falls Road was discussed at length. The planning board OK'd the request to subdivide the five-acre tract at its January meeting, but the Town Board has the final say concerning subdivisions.

Parrish asked to partition off a .75-acre tract with home from the rest the property both of which are serviced by a septic system.

Of concern to Commissioner Amy Patterson and later agreed to by Commissioners Hank Ross, Dennis DeWolf and Larry Rogers was the amount of land available on the .75-acre tract to repair the septic system, should the septic system fail.

Commissioner Buz Dotson suggested the property was grandfathered in, but others said since the property was being changed – that is subdivided – then it should be brought up to standards.

Those "standards" mean having enough property to put in a new or expanded septic field for the house if needed, since sometime in the future the tract and house separated out from the main tract could be sold outside the family.

Commissioner Patterson suggested an easement be designated "since there was obviously plenty of property surrounding the 'new' tract to remedy any failed septic system scenario."

Parrish said she had no problem assigning an easement but said since such a requirement wasn't reflected in the town's zoning or subdivision ordinance she didn't agree that she should have to comply.

"I think this has to be addressed in the code and it should be looked at in the future, but I don't think it applies to me at this time," she said.

Commissioner Dotson and Town Planner Joe Cooley said the septic issue was a county one. "This is something the health department will have to address eventually," said Cooley. "They will have the final word as to whether the subdivision has to come up to new standards." But he did say it was town policy that a property comply with current standards once it is changed.

Commissioner Patterson said since it is now a "new" lot a repair area should be designated. "We've had too much of one branch of government not knowing what another is doing," she said. "There are two houses on two separate tracts and it should have two septic fields or land designated for such."

After much discussion, Town Attorney Bill Coward said the "fix" was simple. "Just impose an easement on the adjoining property and record it with the deed. That way if land is needed for a repair field for the new piece, it's there."

The board granted the subdivision plat contingent upon an easement be designated for septic repair.

## Next Meeting

The next Town Board meeting is March 4 to be held in the new Town Board meeting location at the Highlands Community Center in preparation for Town Hall renovations in the future.

– Kim Lewicki



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March 27 to April 2 should call Robbie Forrester at 342-1627 for details.



## Allman retires



At the Monday, Feb. 23 Macon County School Board meeting, Superintendent Dan Brigman and board Chairman Jim Breedlove, presented Reva Allman with a plaque of appreciation for her 10 years serving as Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. Brigman said in her 10 years she's served four superintendents which was "no small task because when superintendents change everything changes."

Photo by Kim Lewicki

## • POLICE & FIRE •

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for Feb. 14-Feb 24. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Feb. 14

- At 3:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in the parking lot of Mountain Fresh Foods. There were no injuries.
- At 4:40 p.m., officers were called to a residence on Wilson Road concerning a domestic dispute between a husband, wife and mother-in-law.

Feb. 17

- At 9:30 a.m., officers were called to RBC Centura Bank concerning the receipt of a counterfeit \$20 bill.
- At 3:45 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at S. 3rd and Spring streets. There were no injuries.

Feb. 18

- At 11:30 a.m., officers were called to a residence on Raoul Road concerning damage to a glass door and a wire gate.

Feb. 20

- Four youth were cited for underage drinking and driving.

Feb. 21

- At 8:40 p.m., officers were called to a residence Chestnut Street concerning a fire on a lot. It was a controlled burn in a fire pit.
- At 2 p.m., officers were called to investigate property damage at a residence on OEI Lane where a code box was damaged.
- During the week, officers issued 8 citations and responded to 2 alarm activations.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Feb. 18-21.

Feb. 18

- The dept. responded to a possible structure fire on Falls West Drive. Smoke was due to an outlet shortage. There was no damage.
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a home on Mack Wilson Road. There was no transport.

Feb. 20

- The dept. responded to a call of smoke in the vicinity of NC 28 and Old Orchard Road. It was unfounded.

Feb. 21

- The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a home on Flat Mountain Road. The alarm was set off by a closed damper in the fireplace.

## • FUN & GAMES •

### Hex-a-Ku<sup>©</sup> 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.

#### 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 or column.

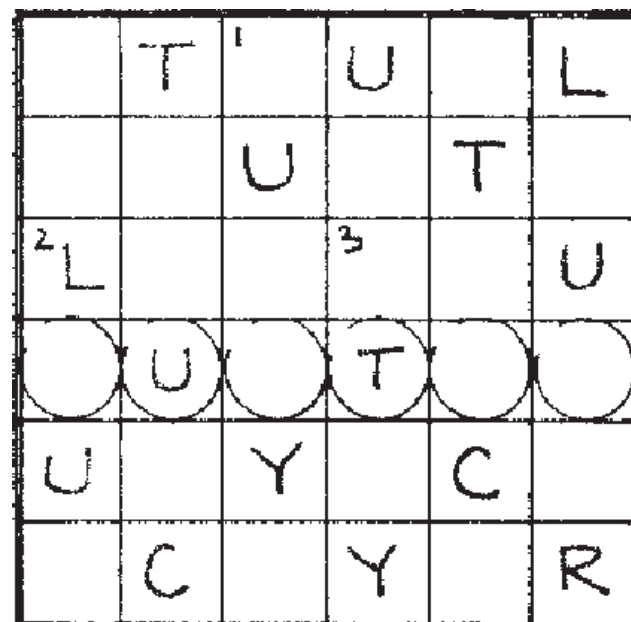
#### Mystery Word Briefly (6)

##### Across

1. To coil hair (4)

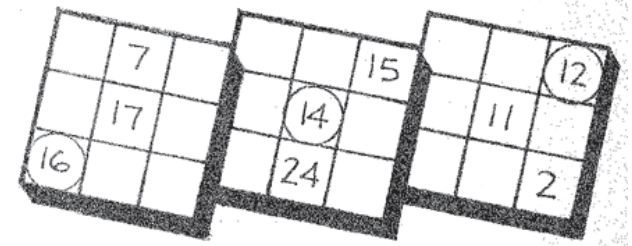
##### Down

2. To slice (3)
3. To attempt (3)



### PseudoCube<sup>©</sup>

by Pete Sarieant and Don Cook



#### #DZ4F Level of Difficulty - Moderate

##### THE SETUP:

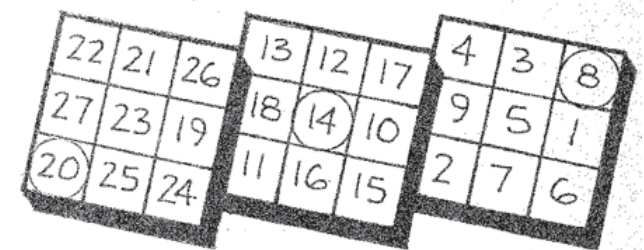
The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern: For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running through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

##### THE CHALLENGE:

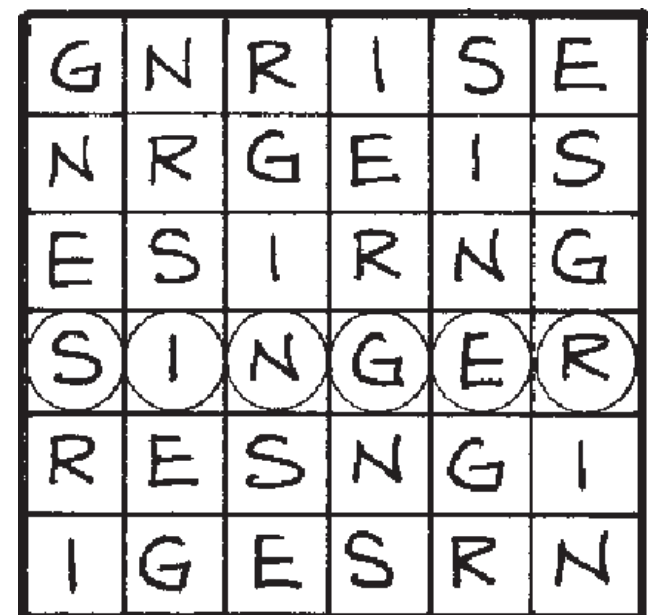
Start with the three center numbers for each layer and the other numbers given. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other numbers belong. Good Luck!

Email: [pseudocube8@aol.com](mailto:pseudocube8@aol.com).

#### Solution to #BZ3F in Feb. 19 issue



#### Solution to Feb. 19 Hex-a-Ku





# Girls' Clubhouse at the Episcopal Church, Feb. 20



McKinley Mosely and Grace Brassard kept the 2-3 year olds occupied with "ball" games.



Ivy Satterwhite and Meredith Garren read to the 5-8 year old "after-school" children.



April Moss played Candy Land with the the 3-4 year olds.



Veronica Garcia and Elizabeth Houston helped 3-4 year olds make cards.  
Photos by Supervisor Kim Lewicki

# Highlands School Accelerated Readers



Mrs. Chalkers Great Beginnings kneeling from left: Jeslyn Head, Gracie Forrester, Kedra McCall, Cullen Joiner, Eli Kennedy. Standing from left: Bailey Schmitt, Sydney Potter, Turner Edgins, Ethan Tate, Jonathan Miller. Not pictures: Matthew Barnes and Dillon Schmitt.



Mrs. McClellan's Kindergarten from left: William Chastain, Peyton Coppage, William Creswell, Diane Dallman, Brooklyn Houston, Logan Petrone, Noah Vroon, Savannah Chasteen, Rebekah Wiggins,



Mrs. Cox's Second Grade from left: Alexis Healey, Alexis Damian, Grace Crowe, Katie McCall, Riley Moseley, Bety Garcia, Deborah Forester, Caden Smolarsky, Samuel Hawkins. Not pictured: John Brassard, Destin Gearhart, Logan Houston, Dakota Sherburne, Daisy Talley,



Mrs. Sizemore's First Grade from left: Reid Ingate, Isaiah Tucci-Caselli, Matthew Campbell, Freda Olalde, Emma Weller, Sayla Roman, Chela Green, Jessica Campbell, Emily Leonard, Ericka Joiner, Cydni Coppage, Lydia Clark, Pablo Jimenez-Estrade, Camren Dalton, Taj Roman. Not pictured: Campbell Swofford,



Mrs. Coppages Third Grade from left: Ana Cortez-Damian, Ben Avery, Madison Dalton, Manuel Machuca, Olivia Diamond, Alexandria Preda, Jose Jimenez, David Rogers. Not Pictured: Briana Jenkins, Zori Nastasic, Taylor Welch,



Mrs. Miller's Second Grade from left: Joey Harris, Charlie Underwood, Jake Billingsley, Drew Chalker, Matson Gates, Hannah Holt, Katy Munoz, Michael Iannacone, Jasper Putnam, Luke Nix, Kaitlyn Wolfrey, Jared Shearl. Grace Maybin, Rylee Rivers,



Mrs. Murphy's Third Grade from left: Tiffany Preda, Juan Garcia-Montano, Kyle Dorsey, John Paul Grace, Trinity Dendy, Ethan Crisp, Analyse Crook, Logan Walker, Austin Forrester, Manuel Contreras, Brittany Chastain, Cole Wilkes.  
Photos by Carol Bowen



Mrs. Archer and Mrs. Hedden's Fifth Grade from left: Colin Weller, Allie Mae Walsh, Sarah Henry, Whitney Billingsley, John Iannacone, Carrie McClure, Allie Wilkes, Ahzah Kennemore, Dylan Vinson, Chase Harris, Carter Potts, Kyle Gabbard, Donald Pair, Lincoln Walker. Not pictured: Chance Gilbert.



Mrs. Iannacone's Fourth Grade from left: Danielle Mathis, Erica Barnes, Bethany Shuler, Abigail Gilbert, Sandra Garcia, Seth Satterwhite, Cecelia Schmitt, Eden Ingate.



Mrs. West's Fourth Grade from left: Wesley Hedden, Emily Crowe, Tucker Bates, Benjamin Miller, Adam Schiffli, Jamie Walsh, Megan Vinson. Not pictured: Madison Schandolph,



## ... HERITAGE continued from page 12

quilting is a \$3.3 billion industry with an estimated 27 million quilting enthusiasts. In fact, quilting was responsible for the total revival of the coal mining town of Paducah, KY.

Included at the Heritage Farm will be farm buildings gleaned from sites all over Macon County, vegetable gardens, livestock, and everything else depicting a working farm of days gone by.

To finance the feasibility study, the association needs \$25,000 -- \$5,000 from the town of Franklin, \$5,000 from the TDC, \$5,000 from the TDA. \$5,000 from the county and \$5,000 from local banks.

The people behind the Living Heritage Village and Farm believe the time is right for the endeavor.

According to the NC Dept. of Travel and Tourism and the Travel Industry Association of America, special interest in travel and especially cultural tourism in on the rise; more than half the visitors to N.C. have college educations and is most interested in cultural sites; visitor spending in N.C. for 2007 was \$16.5 billion; \$1.3 billion in tax revenues were paid by visitors; \$815 million in state tax revenue was realized due to visitors; and \$529 million in local taxes from travel related businesses was realized.

"The establishment of the Living Heritage Village and Farm can be a major component in the economic future of Macon County and the entire region," reads the report. "Our location makes us uniquely situated to serve as a central hub from which visitors can be directed all over the region."

## ... FINALE continued from page 13

sive play of the Hawks proved to be too difficult of a task in the second half, and the Hawks pulled away for a 65-48 victory.

The lone bright spot for the Highlanders came for Highlander senior Ezra Herz, who scored the 1,000 point of his career in a losing effort.

Monday night the boys traveled to Cherokee for the first round of the state playoffs, and looked to have a successful night after splitting two games with the Braves earlier in the season.

A slow start quickly derailed those hopes however, as the Highlanders trailed 11-2 early and never recovered, falling 78 to 48. The Highlanders finished the season with a 10 and 17 record. While winning 10 games at a school the size of Highlands is always an accomplishment, there was certainly some disappointment with the final results of a season that began with high expectations.

On Tuesday, the Lady Highlanders hosted a first-round playoff game against the Hendersonville Lady Bearcats. Hendersonville defeated the Lady Highlanders in a close game earlier in the season, and the Lady Highlanders were out for revenge Tuesday.

Highlands trailed by 3 early before tak-


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ing a 4-point halftime lead. In the second half, the Lady Highlanders stepped up their defensive pressure, and youth was served thanks to the efforts of freshmen Emily Munger and Julianne Buras as well as sophomore Marlee McCall.

All three underclassmen combined for 46 of the Lady Highlanders 65 points in a 65 to 55 victory.

The Lady Highlanders will play today, Thursday, Feb. 26, in a second-round match-up with top-10 Robbinsville. The game has a 7 o'clock start, and will be in Robbinsville — so please come out and support your Lady Highlanders as they play for a birth in the Sectional Finals.

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